

Friday, page 14
The Guardian
raise one last
pass to Sam
and Clem

Friday September 13 1996

Abu Dhabi D 8.50	Hong Kong HK\$ 25	Oman OR 1.00
Albania L 220	Hungary F 210	Pakistan R 70
Andorra FF 10	Iceland IS 185	Poland Z 6.20
Austria S 35	India Rs 55	Portugal E 240
Bahrain BD 0.85	Israel NIS 9.00	Qatar QR 1.50
Belgium BF 35	Italy L 3,000	Russia US\$ 2.00
Bulgaria L 240	Jordan JD 1.25	Saudi Arabia R 10
Canada C\$ 1.25	Korea KSH 150	Slovakia SK\$ 55
Cyprus C\$ 1.00	Kuwait KD 1.50	Slovenia SIT 290
Dominican Republic KCS\$	Latvia US\$ 2	Spain P 220
Dominican Republic K\$	Lithuania US\$ 2	Sweden SK 17
Dubai D 8.50	Luxembourg LF 55	Switzerland SF 3.20
Egypt E\$ 50	Madagascar M\$ 5	Thailand B 80
France FF 10	Malaysia M\$ 2.5	Turkmenistan T 1,750
Germany DM 3.50	Malta M\$ 2.5	Turkey TL 100,000
Greece G 4.00	Marshall Islands M\$ 4.00	Ukraine US\$ 2.00
	Norway Nkr 16	USA US\$ 2.00

The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 46.657



The tantrums of Oasis's Liam Gallagher were surprisingly upstaged by his brother Noel yesterday PHOTOGRAPH ANDREW TESTA

Noel walks out definitely, and maybe it's all over for Oasis

David Ward

OASIS split shock (or was it "Oasis shock split") said the black letter bill on a stand in Market Street presided over by Kevin Barnes, the loudest news vendor in Manchester.

His cry of "Late final!" set trembling buildings even the IRA could not budge. But his howlings were drowned by the squeals of anguish uttered by the Fallsworth Collective when they were caught up with the tragedy which had overwhelmed the city.

Liam Gallagher leaving Oasis is as common as strong lager and stronger language but this time it was serious. The singer's brother Noel, aged 29, the band's songwriter and resident genius, walked out on Britain's most successful group of the 1990s and flew home yesterday.

The whispers were aimed



They had seen Manchester's finest at Knebworth, Loch Lomond and Maine Road (twice). "Best band in the world. We're totally mad for it," they insisted. "This stuff about the split - it's just the papers. Doesn't mean it's happening does it? It's not true. They're always arguing. They'll last as long as the Beatles. Longer."

Creation, the band's record company, issued a statement worthy of a grand prix racing team: "Oasis have had internal difficulties on their ninth tour of America, which has resulted in the tour being pulled two-thirds of the way through. It is unlikely that immediate touring commitments will be fulfilled."

Or, put another way: first Liam, aged 23, missed the

opening night in Chicago so he could go house-hunting in London; then he spat, swore and split beer at the MTV awards in New York; now Noel has left after a five-hour row during a band meeting in north Carolina.

Baker in the band's hometown, shopper Greg Hollins glanced at Mr Barnes's newswall. "I see that every time I come to Manchester," he snorted. "Oasis are a bunch of arrogant gits. I like their albums but I don't like their attitude. They're cocky. At first, they were a new thing with a new image. But it became repetitive - sticking the Vs up at concerts, spitting beer at the crowd. We've seen it all before."

Outside HMV, Ros Manley, aged 17, agreed: "There are plenty of bands around who are just as good. They are too commercial - they sold out."

Angharad Jackson, who works in Waterstone's, said: "They are really boring. They are ugly and chauvinist. I don't like the spitting and the new lad image."

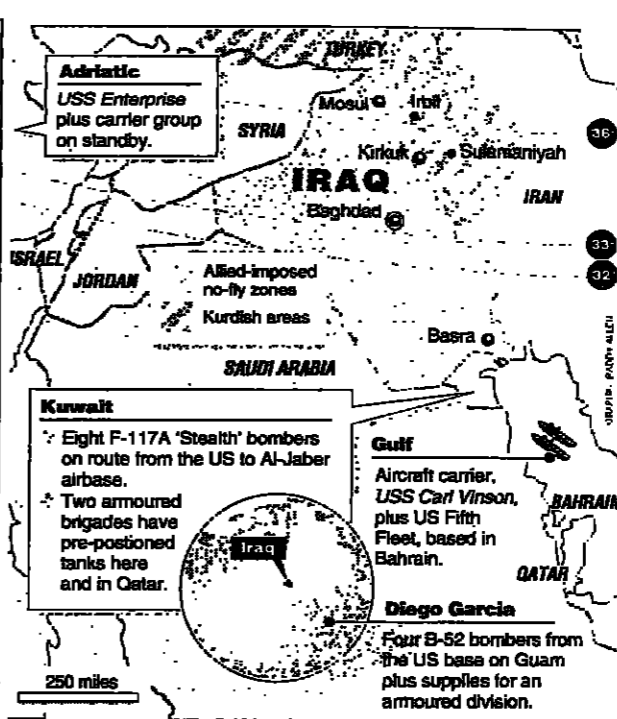
Mr Barnes was still shouting his wares. How did he feel about the demise of Manchester's cultural lions? "I'll sob when I go to bed tonight," he suggested as he cleared his throat in another bid to reach 100 decibels.

Band that couldn't live forever, page 3; Leader comment, page 8

US throws ring of steel around Iraq

Martin Walker in Washington and Ian Black in London

THE United States hurriedly threw a military ring of steel around Iraq yesterday as a prelude to an expected, large American assault while the Clinton administration fought a war of words with President Saddam Hussein.



As threats and counter-threats flew, the Pentagon was formulating against all possible Iraqi reprisals, ranging from a ground assault on Kuwait to a Scud missile attack on Israel. The US reinforced Patriot missile defences in Kuwait, sent additional fighter-bombers to the Gulf and alerted a second aircraft carrier task force.

After Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi deputy prime minister, denounced Kuwait for allowing US bombers to use its bases, Washington reaffirmed its commitment to defend the emirate, and wider Western oil and strategic interests in the Gulf.

"Everyone should understand that the US will take all necessary and appropriate action to protect our forces and our interests in that area," said William Perry, the defence secretary. "We are in the process of moving even more forces there to protect those interests."

While maintaining a drumbeat of resolution to challenge President Saddam after the loss of Kurdistan to a pro-Baghdad faction, US officials admitted that the northern

no-fly zone and Operation Provide Comfort, the military umbrellas for humanitarian relief, could not survive.

The admission confirmed what commentators have been saying for several days: that President Saddam has won a significant victory at the allies' expense and now controls a large chunk of territory lost in the aftermath of the Gulf war.

But Washington's focus on the south means protecting the Gulf and, in addition to the widely-publicised deployment of eight Stealth warplanes and four B-52 bombers,

the US was readying other assets in the region.

Omnibusly, Iraq declared that Kuwait had committed "an act of war" by allowing the F-117s to use its airbases. Baghdad also claimed to have fired three anti-aircraft missiles at US and allied aircraft yesterday.

The US faced renewed criticism from Gulf war allies in the Middle East and Europe, France, which criticised last week's cruise missile attacks, expressed "deep concern" about the mounting tension and it was clear that apart from Britain, Kuwait and Is-

rael, unequivocal support for Washington was unlikely.

But US sources insisted that Mr Clinton had little choice. "Saddam is very unpredictable so all the pieces are being put in place to deal with any possible response," said a well-placed US source.

Latest intelligence reports show mostly routine Iraqi activity in the south. But the most likely risk to Kuwait is from a Scud attack, with 16 missiles in Iraq's arsenal unaccounted for by United Nations inspectors. Israel and Saudi Arabia could also be exposed.

US air strikes could begin at the weekend. Two hundred and fifty cruise missiles are on the ships of the Fifth fleet.

The Stealth bombers left Holloman Air Force base in New Mexico yesterday on their 20-hour flight to Kuwait.

In Washington, political pressures mounted sharply on Mr Clinton yesterday, with what seemed like a coordinated attack by the Republican vice-presidential candidate Jack Kemp, the retired general Colin Powell and the former secretary of state James Baker.

"The president is going to have to make a clear distinction between supporting our forces and any other action that could involve us more fully," Gen Powell said.

Mr Baker, testifying before Congress, spoke of "a defeat for US policy in the region, a failure of US leadership", and Mr Kemp accused Mr Clinton of emboldening President Saddam with "vague and uncertain foreign policy".

Iraq crisis, page 6

Mortgages: the next Tory scare

Larry Elliott Economics Editor

THE Conservatives are planning to raise the stakes in the pre-election dogfight over the economy with an autumn offensive designed to scare homeowners that mortgage rates will rise under Labour.

With the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, telling backbenchers that the poor state of the Government's finances leaves him little scope for big tax cuts in the budget, ministers intend to switch the focus of their political attack to interest rates.

The strategy depends on keeping base rates at around their current level of 5.75 per cent, a task made easier by the weakness of inflation. Figures released by the Office for National Statistics yesterday showed the annual rate of price increases falling slightly to 2.1 per cent.

One senior minister admitted that the recent campaign on tax could not be sustained for seven months until a spring election, and that the Government would now be stressing the risks posed by Labour to mortgage rates, currently at a 30-year low.

"The family with an aver-

Jamiroquai
Travelling Without Moving

OUT NOW CD LP MC

Includes the hit single 'Virtual Insanity' limited edition CD & LP features bonus track 'Do You Know Where Your Coming From' by Jamiroquai & M-Beat

City Notebook, page 11; Letters, page 8

Inside

Leaders of the NHS are poised to sign a pioneering and controversial deal with Norwich Union, the private health insurer.

3

News

The Government is trying to postpone a special EU summit in Dublin next month, called to speed the drive to monetary union.

7

World News

Gillette, the razor manufacturer, is expanding its consumer products empire by buying battery maker Duracell for \$7bn.

11

Finance

Liverpool were in action in Finland last night, taking on MyPa-47 as they began their attempt to win the European Cup Winners' Cup.

16

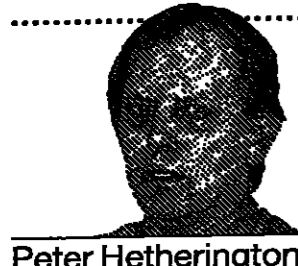
Sport

Comment and Letters 8
Obituaries 10
Friday Review
Quick Crossword 15
TV and Radio 16

9 770261 307354

Sketch

Gretna couples miss the green



Peter Hetherington

Only five years ago, the council, onto a nice little earner, forked out £400,000 for a new registration centre...

CONSERVATIVE hopes that the Government's summer recovery would continue...

Party back to 15-point advantage, up three, dashing Tory hopes of maintaining summer revival

Labour restores poll lead

CONSERVATIVE hopes that the Government's summer recovery would continue...

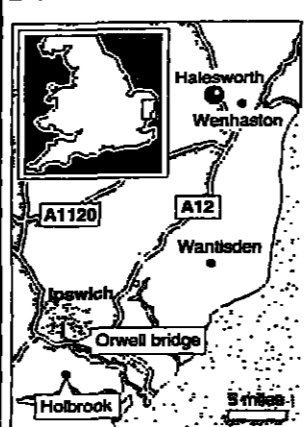
On the unadjusted figures which take no account of voters' reluctance to admit to supporting the Conservatives...

These results interrupt the strong momentum which the Conservatives have established in the polls since the spring...

The principal losers are the Liberal Democrats, whose ratings have fallen for the second successive month...

The principal losers are the Liberal Democrats, whose ratings have fallen for the second successive month...

Table with 4 columns: Party, Jun, Jul, Aug, New. Rows: Lab, Con, LDem, Other.



Suicides in quiet area of Suffolk leave parents anxious and police investigating possible paedophile ring

Down the road, Sarah and Robert Kester, and close family, have popped into the local bakery for a small wedding cake...



The High Street in Halesworth, Suffolk, where choirmaster Christopher Barnett lived and was regarded as 'a great bloke'

Review

Muted debut for Hallé's new hall

Andrew Clements

Eight years after the city council gave the go-ahead, and less than four since building work began...

Police and social services are to question members of 19 choirs following the separate suicides of a choirmaster and pianist...

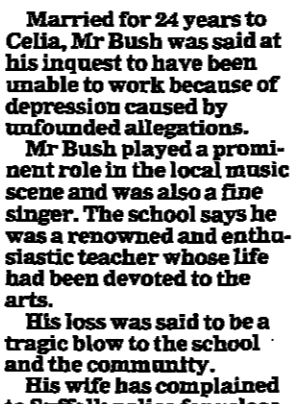
Indecency inquiry spreads to 19 choirs

Alan Watkins

Police and social services are to question members of 19 choirs following the separate suicides of a choirmaster and pianist...



ADRIAN BUSH was a career teacher specialising in music, latterly at the Royal Hospital Independent grammar school, Holbrook, near Ipswich...



CHRISTOPHER BARNETT, who was born in the West Midlands, had two ruling passions - snooker and music...



Another parent, Joseph Buttle, said: "I regard Mr Barnett as one of the most talented and remarkable people I have ever met..."



Detective Chief Inspector Andrew Ravasio, who is heading the inquiry, said yesterday he had an open mind as to whether a paedophile ring was at work...

Our inquiry is into any activities of a sexual nature involving Mr Barnett, but it is far too early for me to say whether those we know about are isolated incidents...

Deepening budget crisis sees BBC World Service Asia show axed after 20-year run

Andrew Cull Media Correspondent

THE BBC World Service has axed its first programme in a fresh round of cuts caused by its deepening budget crisis...

House headquarters, who have been campaigning to halt the merger of its English language and news programmes with the BBC's domestic departments...

Office minister, Jeremy Hanley, next week. Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, and Sir Christopher Bland, the BBC's chairman, are to discuss the group's report next month...

dropped by 15 per cent in real terms since 1993/94. "When you look at the service's income, some hard decisions have to be made..."

Mr Younger is expected to launch a campaign opposing cuts in Foreign Office grant-in-aid in the run up to November's budget...

Mr Younger is expected to launch a campaign opposing cuts in Foreign Office grant-in-aid in the run up to November's budget...

PROMS AT THE PARK advertisement with logo and text: FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER THE LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS COMES TO HYDE PARK...

Vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially cut off, mentioning 'Hard to...' and 'Your problem...'

Oasis in a musical desert on the day the music died — at least for the moment

- Oasis sold 2 million copies of their first album, *Definitely Maybe*, and 8 million of their second, *(What's the Story) Morning Glory?*, generating £24 million.
- Apart from the Gallagher brothers, Liam and Noel, there are three other members: bassist Paul McGuigan, guitarist Paul "Bonehead" Arthurs and drummer Alan White.
- Their first gig was in October 1992, but it was two years before they hit the big time with their first single, *Supersonic*.
- Five per cent of the population applied for tickets to their Knebworth concert, only 0.4 per cent succeeding.
- Their rivalry with fellow Britpoppers Blur is notorious; Noel has expressed the hope that Blur's singer and bass player "die of Aids". (Blur pipped Oasis to No. 1 in 1995 when they released singles on the same day.)
- At one point this year, all their nine singles were in the charts.
- Former drummer Tony McCarroll is suing after being sacked for "incompetence".
- Oasis's endorsement brought the work of Burt Bacharach to a new generation.
- Their shambolic dress sense is influential: shops have reported a run on Hush Puppies and anoraks.
- There is another Gallagher brother, Paul. He manages another, less successful band.



Brothers in arms... Liam (left) and Noel Gallagher, who gave the band its front and its engine respectively

Hard times for the brothers grim

Noel wanted to be as popular as U2, Liam was more like Sid Vicious
 Nick Varley on the conflicts that have dogged Britain's most popular band

ON THE night Nirvana's Kurt Cobain died, a fledgling group took to the stage in front of barely 100 people in a small club in the North-east. Only the support band (appearing for £125 and some beer), Oasis made little impression as they wandered on. That changed minutes later when singer Liam Gallagher sneered a dedication to the late figurehead of grunge: "This one's for Kurt Cobain," he said. Oasis played *Live For Ever*.

The frontman, whose antics have created more headlines than the previous generation of British bands, was away. The king was dead, long live the king. Not Liam, the clown prince, the image, the charismatic frontman, but his brother Noel, the songwriter. It was Noel and, however unlikely it sounds, his work ethic which made Oasis Britain's most successful band of the '90s. From the day he joined Liam's band he took over, determined for success — and, unlike many artists, he was prepared to graft for it.

Graham Ramsay, promoter of the night at Middleborough Arena, remembers: "They had a band policy of putting themselves around the venue after the show, mixing with fans. That night the four other than Noel were too tired after the previous night and went back to their hotel, but he still stayed around and he was so apologetic about them leaving. He must have said sorry about six times."

By last month, when they played to 250,000 people at Knebworth, Liam's every movement was subject to media scrutiny: his on-off

romance with Patsy Kensit, his drug use, his loutish behaviour.

Always in contrast to such rock'n'roll excess was Noel's ambition, born when he was a guitar roadie for Inspiral Carpets. He used his time touring with them to learn the workings of the music business, accumulate contacts and discover those he wanted to work with when his chance came.

That was in 1992 when he joined Rain, Liam's band, demanding one condition: commitment. Since then it has been unbroken success — a hit with their first single, top 10 with their third, the fastest selling debut album in British pop history, followed by the fastest selling album of the '90s with their second.

Tensions between fast-living Liam and fast-talking Noel were never far from the surface. Noel once said the band's security guards were employed primarily to keep the brothers apart. He also said: "Liam is always leaving the band. It's raining today, so he's leaving the band 'cos it's raining."

But when Noel leaves, it's serious. Former manager Ian Robertson said last night: "He takes a great deal but generally speaking he'll walk away and go to his room."

Not that he hasn't quit before. On an American tour in 1995 the antics of the band became too much. The commitment had gone, so Noel went too — for a week on his own with £5,000 of the tour float and a solo return to Britain. Reconciliation was swift. Robertson would not be surprised if the same happens again. "I would bet on it but when I don't know — maybe not some time soon."



Patsy Kensit... romance on again, off again

Brotherly love

Noel on Liam: "Liam's always leaving the band. It's raining today so he's leaving the band 'cos it's raining."

Liam on Noel: "I f*****g hate that twat there, I f*****g hate him. And one day I hope I can smash f**** out of him with a f*****g Rickenbacker right on his head."

Perhaps when Liam "grows up", to use Noel's words. "The law of averages says he can't go on being a knob for the rest of his life."

For if there's one thing a perfectionist hates it's the uncontrollable. Noel wants to be as popular as U2. When he walked out last time, he told the other four they could be the new U2 or the Sex Pistols. Liam's problem is that all too often he appears to be heading towards the new Sid Vicious. Noel is Johnny Rotten and Malcolm McLaren rolled into one.

Jonathan Freedland on the band's 'last stand'

THEY began with Hello, but they never said goodbye. The several thousand young Washingtonians who had gathered under the stars a couple of nights ago didn't seem to mind.

They were quite content to see Liam, Noel and the boys stomp off after the cover version of I am the Walrus. No one in the crowd realised they were witnessing a piece of history: Oasis's last stand.

All right, it wasn't exactly the last stand. That — if rumours of Oasis's death are not greatly exaggerated — came on Wednesday in Charlotte, North Carolina. Tuesday's show at the open air Nissan Pavilion in Virginia may not have been the ultimate performance, but it was the penultimate one, and that counts for something.

The event had a strange charge even before it began. The Nissan Pavilion is in the middle of nowhere and the sight of thousands of cars and kids — their necks glowing with fluorescent necklaces — heading for the distant mountain of lights was like an outbreak from *Close Encounters*.

The spectacle and the empty night sky should have dwarfed Oasis. Liam was dressed, as usual, like a Salford teenager waiting for a bus: brown jacket zipped to the top, T-shirt hanging out in front. The rest looked no more stellar than a bunch of mates having a round. But then the mega-TV screens concentrated on Liam's face, bent, as usual, in an unshaven sneer at the microphone. And he looked massive.

The critics had been unkind on this benighted US tour, which began with Liam buffing out of Heathrow and

ended with Noel catching an early flight home. The New York Times described Oasis as a "wired bundle of apathy and hubris", concluding that "Few bands put out as little and expect as much as this one did."

This was always Oasis's problem in America. When they first came to Washington in late 1994, they struggled to fill the 930 Club, a glorified pub. A year later they played a larger hall, in Baltimore. By then they were huge in Britain, but still a mere cult band in America. The result was incongruity: Liam strutted and paced like a surly rock star, but the audience didn't think he'd earned the right.

By Tuesday, he'd earned it all right and Liam sulked and preened to his heart's content. Violating Virginia's strict rules against public drinking, he knocked back the beer and sat on one of the stage speakers, swinging his legs like a moody brat.

Noel was a different story. When Liam and the lads took a break, leaving him alone with his acoustic guitar, the crowd warmed instantly. His soft versions of *Whatever* and *Wonderwall* delighted the Americans, who slipped instantly into ballad mode, popping open their lighters and swaying.

There is a ravenous appetite for tuneful, soppy songs in the US and a post-Oasis Noel could find a ready audience here.

Maybe that's what explains the pleased smile he allowed himself at the end of his three-song session, after he had sung loud and clear: "I'm free to do whatever I want."

Kids in Washington will be thinking of the unwitting poignancy of Liam belting out "Maybe I just want to breathe, maybe I just don't believe, You and I are gonna live forever".

That memory will make a decent souvenir. Although now I'm kicking myself. I should have bought a T-shirt.

Angry at Kilmer's frequent failures to turn up on set, Brando had arranged for his trailer to be moved away from Kilmer's, and had, according to Entertainment Weekly told him: "Your problem is you confuse the size of your talent with the size of your pay cheque."

The "massacre" of The Island of Dr Moreau

Friday Review

Conservatives plan mortgage rate scare

continued from page 1

taxes and interest rates. They are prepared to risk charges that their election campaign is overly-negative because it is believed fears of higher mortgage rates under a Neil Kinnock administration were one of the unpublishable factors behind the support given to Mr Major in 1992 by aspirational swing voters, particularly in the South-east.

Despite Labour's insistence that it will be tough on inflation and public spending, the Conservatives believe the Opposition remains vulnerable to the charge that borrowing and interest rates will rise.

"Gordon Brown [the shadow chancellor] has yet to come clean about what his inflation target would be, what his plans are for public spend-

ing, and what he intends to do about public sector pay. We will be pressing for some answers," the ministerial source said.

Labour remains confident that its economic strategy — based on the final abandonment of tax and spend policies — and that it can turn the tables on the Government by highlighting the debacle of Black Wednesday and the subsequent tax increases to pay the cost of the 1990s recession.

"Millions of people still living in negative equity after the housing market disaster and high interest rates which have characterised John Major's leadership know the truth," Mr Brown said last night.

"Despite these Tory lies, they know it is the Conservatives who have hit the homeowners and Labour which has pledged to keep inflation and interest rates low by increasing investment and strengthening the fundamentals of the economy upon which low interest rates depend."

The Advertising Standards Association ruled yesterday that Labour's "Same Old Tories Same Old Lies" poster was unlikely to cause serious or widespread offence. Frank Dobson, the shadow environment secretary said: "The ASA is quite right to say that calling the Tories liars is not likely to cause offence, because it is true. They lied about tax at the last election. They are lying about Labour now."

NHS to sign deal with private health firm

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

LEADERS of National Health Service trusts are poised to sign a pioneering deal involving a tie-up with a private health insurer which will renew controversy over creeping health privatisation.

The agreement would mean trusts promoting a Norwich Union policy under which subscribers are treated in private patient wings of NHS hospitals.

The plan last night threatened a damaging health service row. Bob Abberley, head of health for Unison, the biggest NHS union, said: "This is the shape of things to come under the Tory NHS."

"It just proves that what we have been saying about increasing privatisation. It's happening before our very eyes."

Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, said the deal would have to be studied and its acceptability would "depend a bit" on the way the policy was promoted. But he added: "I rather welcome the expression of confidence in NHS care that is implied by the idea."

The deal could be one of several struck with insurers by the NHS Trust Federation. Its leaders have been angered by a move by Bupa, the leading insurer, to try to switch its subscribers to a policy which bars their treatment at most NHS private patient units.

Bupa runs 30 of its own hospitals which, like many others in the private sector, operate at low capacity.

Estimates of the potential loss of income to the NHS as a result of Bupa's action start at £16 million a year, ranging up to £200 million, and the federation has retaliated by opening talks with other companies.

Marco Cereste, federation chairman, said terms of a deal

had been reached with Norwich Union and would go for approval to the federation's next council meeting.

Asked if trusts would sell the Norwich Union policy, he said: "Not at this stage, but if it is successful and we put the right package together, I really don't see why you should not be able to buy such a package from your local trust."

He added: "If there is a particularly good scheme that we think is of benefit to ourselves, and particularly our patients, it would be wrong for us not to promote it."

Norwich Union already offers a policy, Trust Care, which provides for treatment only in NHS private patient units. It presents the policy as low-cost because it says the units are better value than private hospitals.

For a couple aged 44 and living in Cornwall, Norwich Union quotes a premium of £46.24 a month; for a 27-year-old in Oxford, it quotes £22.72.

Take-up of the policy is thought to have been low, although the company would give no figures. The proposed tie-up with the trust federation would lead to the scheme being re-launched with a fresh emphasis on the advantages of NHS hospitals.

"They have in place all the support services that most provincial private hospitals don't have," said Mr Cereste, speaking at the federation's annual conference in Birmingham.

Many trust hospitals are rapidly expanding their private patient wings, claiming that profits are ploughed back into improving care for NHS patients. Earlier this year, however, Mr Dorrell intervened to stop trusts marketing their own insurance schemes in partnership with companies.

Approval of the federation's proposal would appear to hinge on it not being a sole agreement and on trusts not — yet — selling the policy.

Antonio Carluccio offers something to expand your perceptions of Italian cooking.

Wild mushrooms.

Starting this week, six weeks of Italian recipes from Antonio Carluccio's new book and TV series 'Italian Feast'. Find out how just a few slices of special dried *funghi* can alter a sauce beyond your wildest dreams.

RadioTimes

IT'S NOT WHAT YOU EXPECT.

lead

19 choir

ELF MS

4 BRITAIN

News in brief

Duchess of York to write for Paris-Match

THE Duchess of York has been signed up to write regularly for Paris-Match, the French weekly gossip magazine announced yesterday. The duchess, who has signed a contract for an undisclosed sum, is to write a minimum of six exclusive articles a year, with the first one appearing next month. The magazine's joint editor-in-chief, Patrick Mahé, said yesterday that the duchess's brief was to secure interviews and write features which would be translated word-for-word into French. "We do not expect to be disappointed. She is spontaneous, fun and a straight talker — qualities which we appreciate in France, even if they do not always go down well at Buckingham Palace," Mr Mahé said. — *Alex Duval Smith*

Single parent families 'work'

YOUNGSTERS in single parent families feel secure and loved — contrary to popular belief, psychologists claimed yesterday. Far from being rocked by instability caused by a crumbling marriage, they report feelings of uncompromised love, according to new research. Anne Woodlett and Patsy Fuller, of East London University, found divorce could have a positive effect. Women faced with bringing up a child alone were found to experience a greater sense of reward and achievement than other parents, they told a British Psychological Society conference in Oxford. Research presented to the conference also showed children brought up by single mothers were more likely to be free of traditional female-stereotype.

Proms were big success

THE 1996 season of the BBC Proms attracted record attendances at the Royal Albert Hall, the corporation said yesterday. Eighty-nine per cent of the seats for the main evening concerts were sold, compared to the previous record of 86 per cent two years ago. A total of 240,000 tickets were sold for the two-month season, and a record 72 concerts were held. Nicholas Kenyon, controller of Radio 3 and director of the Proms for the first time this year, said: "Our research shows we have attracted a substantial number of first-time Prom-goers and young audiences." — *Andrew Culf*

MP wins libel damages

A CONSERVATIVE MP won £100,000 libel damages plus costs against the Mail on Sunday yesterday. Lawyers for the MP said the story, headlined "Tory MP quizzes as £100,000 of charity money goes missing", was untrue, mistaken and without foundation. The action was brought by Anthony Steen, the MP for South Hants. Mr Steen set up the Task Force charity in the 1960s for young people to give practical help to the lonely and elderly. The case was settled out of court.

Heart surgery wait to end

HOSPITAL chiefs yesterday arranged a new operation date for a seriously ill child whose heart surgery has been cancelled five times in three months. Emily Casey, aged two, born with a heart defect, will finally be treated at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, in Bristol, on September 25, it was confirmed. Her parents Clare and Stuart Casey, of Bridgend, South Wales, had earlier spoken of the psychological strain caused by the hospital's frequent cancellations at short notice. A spokesman for the United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust said: "We will do our utmost to keep that date. We entirely understand the parents' frustration. It has been a most unfortunate and unlucky series of events."

Livingstone attacks council

LABOUR MP Ken Livingstone yesterday demanded a police inquiry into the five-year Conservative administration of Brent council. Mr Livingstone, MP for Brent East, made his remarks after a damning report by the local government ombudsman on the way three Conservative councillors, one of whom is no longer on the authority, handled a planning inquiry. A councillor had given more than £4,000 to the party locally, including a £2,000 donation the day after his application for extensions had been approved.

Apology

IN YESTERDAY'S Diary, it was stated that Independent editor Andrew Marr dismissed the newspaper's dance critic Sophie Constanti, in May, and replaced her with the crossword editor, Louise Levene. We now accept that Miss Constanti lost her job shortly before Mr Marr took over, and that Miss Levene is an experienced writer on dance in her own right. We would like to apologise to Mr Marr for any embarrassment this may have caused.

A £498 SAVING?

IT'S A £498 PROFIT IN MY BOOKS

For Janis...
Capes being both...
Fund Manager...
and Practice...
Manager for a bus...
Surgeon in Mallock...
Dentist...
Marketing and...
Costs come straight off the...
bottom line...
how competitive America...
could be...
doctor ordered...
straightforward and...
new patients can be...
growth and...
If your annual gas bill is...
call VAD of more...
a call today.

AMERADA HESS GAS

0500 00 11 00



Douglas Hogg leaves No 10 after the Cabinet meeting. Ministers hope for progress with Europe in talks 'behind closed doors'

PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN ARGLES

Cabinet backtracks on BSE cull

Talks with EU on limited slaughter

Rebecca Smithers
Political Correspondent

THE Government is backing away from its controversial proposals to limit the mass slaughter of up to 120,000 cattle by launching top-level negotiations with the European Commission over the next few days. It admitted it did not know the size of the backlog of a separate scheme to slaughter cattle aged 30 months or over, as it announced a package of

measures to speed up the programme and try and identify the numbers outstanding through an "urgent survey" of farms. The next direct contact between British and European ministers will be at a meeting in Brussels in Monday, when Britain had appeared to be on a collision course over its proposals. The Prime Minister said this week that the Government was forced to carry out a review after receiving fresh scientific evidence showing BSE would decline without the need for wide

spread slaughter. But European Commission officials have already warned that any reduction in the agreed cull — part of the deal struck at the Florence summit to end the ban on British beef — would not be acceptable. Government sources nevertheless indicated yesterday that they were hopeful that some progress could be made "in proper discussions, behind closed doors".

After the proposals were rubber-stamped at the first Cabinet meeting since the summer recess, Downing Street said the Agriculture Minister, Douglas Hogg, would take forward the discussions with the commission and the agriculture industry in the light of the new scientific evidence. He will suggest that a more limited cull could be workable and acceptable.

A one-third reduction has been suggested. Labour's agriculture spokesman, Gavin Strang, said the onus was on Mr Hogg to hammer out a deal, and condemned the new slaughter measures as "small beer against the scale of the calamity now affecting many beef farmers". He described the Government's handling of the cull as "absolutely abysmal". Of the decision to survey farmers to determine the size of the backlog, he said: "It is an appalling admission that ministers even now, six months into the crisis, tell us that they don't know how many cattle over 30 months still have to be slaughtered." Liberal Democrat spokesman Paul Tyler said a unilateral alteration to the cull programme would be "divisive and dangerous". Any such

move must be agreed with vets and the EU Commission if it was to be successful, he added. Two senior right-wing Tories are surveying would-be Conservative MPs for their views on the single currency. Sir George Gardiner and John Townend are carrying out the confidential survey to find how many parliamentary candidates will pledge themselves against scrapping the pound. Sir George said: "It would give us an immense electoral bonus if it were clear that a majority of Tory candidates opposed joining." A Conservative Central Office spokesman said: "It is up to individual candidates whether or not they reply to the survey."

Arts award shocks opera house architects

James Melkie, Community Affairs Editor

ARCHITECTS behind the doomed Cardiff Bay Opera House project last night accused their former partners after the latter won the replacement contract for a landmark arts and entertainment centre for the same site. Zaha Hadid, who won the original design competition for the scheme which was abandoned last year, and Brian Ma Siy said they were "astounded and aghast" when they discovered the Percy Thomas Partnership had been awarded the work. The decision came after the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) had warned other architects to consider the ethics of entering a second contest following the Millennium Commission's decision last year not to back the £90 million scheme, pointing out it had been dropped because of doubts over its financial viability, not its design. But John Rudge, chief executive of the partnership, which has offices in Cardiff, said it won the work over seven other applicants for a "different client, different brief and different budget". Ms Hadid, who did not apply for the new project, designed a building variously described as a "glass necklace" and a "decon-

structed pigsty". The Cardiff Bay Opera Trust wound up following last year's disappointment and a new organisation, the Wales Millennium Centre, including the Cardiff Bay Development Corporation, Grosvenor Waterside, the development arm of Associated British Ports, and the Institute of Welsh Affairs, organised the new bidding for work to include a 2,000-seat theatre, a waterfront museum, an IMAX cinema, and offices for the Welsh National Opera Company. It will probably cost about £70 million and applications will be made to three National Lottery funding bodies, the Millennium Commission, Arts Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund. The word "opera house" has been dropped. Mr Ma Siy said: "We are astounded and aghast. The Percy Thomas Partnership was our associated office. We got married to them. To find one's partner has ditched one and done this is cause for a large degree of surprise. It is a question of ethics for us. They were privy to all our confidences." The partnership has a large portfolio — Birmingham's convention centre and symphony hall, Ministry of Defence buildings in Bristol, the second Severn Crossing, the University of Science and Technology in Hong Kong. It also has the British Airways building at

Llantrisant, Wales. But Guardian architecture critic Deyan Sudjic said the work was "middle of the road" and "designed to go for comfort". Mr Rudge said: "We were working for a very short time towards the end of the demise of their project and giving them advice on technical, construction and computing issues which they needed. We were not working in any way on the design so ethically we don't see there is an issue." The new clients did not want anything to do with the past, said Mr Rudge. "We like to think we design award-winning buildings. What we do will not be middle of the road but one of the best."

Businessman gets 20 years for raping girls

Christopher Elliott

PETER MARTIN, a Manchester model agency owner and associate of the disgraced millionaire Owen Oyston, was jailed for 20 years yesterday for raping and sexually assaulting teenage girls. Mr Martin, a 56-year-old former policeman, who denied eight rapes and indecently assaulting six girls over 20 years, used his Model Team Agency to lure girls as young as 10. The girls were brainwashed by Martin. One said during the trial it was like "a religious sect — but without the religion". Martin was found unanimously guilty of six rapes and five indecent assault charges by the 11-strong jury after almost 12 hours of deliberation. He was also convicted of two charges of taking indecent photographs of girls under 16. He was cleared of two charges of raping 16-year-old girls and one of indecently assaulting a 16-year-old girl. Martin was impressive when the verdicts were announced, but he blanched when Judge Brian Carter QC sentenced him to 20 years in jail.



Peter Martin... raped and abused teenage girls

saulted them until they were just past their 16th birthdays, before forcing full sex on to them. Despite the length of time over which the rapes and assaults were carried out, it was only in September 1994 that a formal complaint was made by sisters aged 13 and 15. Detectives from the Family Support Unit broke into the Model House, in Northenden Road, and found Martin frantically trying to conceal 51 pornographic videos.

Woman suffers 33-minute witness box ordeal as alleged stalker cross-examines her in court

Vivek Chaudhary

A WOMAN who claims she was psychologically damaged by a stalker was yesterday questioned in court by the man allegedly behind the four-year campaign of harassment and threats. Margaret Bent, aged 30, appeared distressed and stared at the ground during the 33-minute examination by Dennis Chambers at Inner London crown court. She said that being stalked by Mr Chambers had caused her to lose weight, take up smoking again, and consult a doctor because of stress. Ms Bent said that since the stalking campaign began, she had stopped going out alone and

always made sure she had a lift to and from home. "My mind is not my own at the moment. I'm constantly thinking what he might do to me. I can't walk down the street without looking around. He doesn't know how he has affected me. When I see him it makes me feel scared, worried, sick sometimes. If there's a sudden noise or quick movement I jump. That never happened to me before." Mr Chambers, a delivery driver of no fixed address, who is defending himself, claimed that Ms Bent had threatened to "blow his legs off" and had invited him to a night club on several occasions. Judge Quentin Campbell

frequently had to remind Mr Chambers that he had to ask questions and not make statements. Ms Bent agreed that she had told Mr Chambers, aged 37, that she would get his "legs blown off. It was my way of telling him to leave me alone," she said. Mr Chambers denies grievous bodily harm with intent, grievous bodily harm and affray. Earlier, the court was told that Mr Chambers met Ms Bent in 1992, when he tried to chat her up as she was walking along a street in Brixton, south London. He called her up to 10 times a day at home and at work, and then, towards the end of 1994, became increasingly aggressive.

Big rise in deaths in police custody

Alan Travis
Home Affairs Editor

DEATHS in police custody have risen sharply in recent years, with 50 recorded in the year to April, according to Home Office figures published yesterday. The figures, showing a steep increase on the 18 deaths recorded in 1993, were published as the Police Complaints Authority (PCA) announced it had begun an investigation into the death of a 68-year-old man at West Bridgford police station in Nottingham this week. The new Home Office bulletin on police complaints and discipline also shows that 98 police officers were dismissed from the force during 1995-96. Charges were brought against 410 officers in England and Wales — a rise of 5 per cent over the previous year — with 117 cases arising

directly out of complaints from the public. The overall level of complaints received by the police, however, fell by 5 per cent to 23,600, of which 749 were substantiated. For the first time the Home Office has published numbers of deaths in police custody for all police forces. The 50 deaths were reported between April 1995 to March 1996 include 19 at police stations.

School e...
boy, 5, fr...

Pressure in...
problem...

0500 00 11 00

Britain's largest network

هكزان النجف

Labour CD-rom aimed at key schools

Child barred after 30 assaults on staff and pupils School excludes boy, 5, from class

Alan Watkins

A FIVE-year-old primary school pupil has been excluded from a school in Essex after carrying out 30 assaults on teachers, ancillary staff and fellow pupils, it was disclosed yesterday.

The boy, who has not been identified, carried out the attacks over several months. The school decided to expel him to avoid further disruption to classes and meals, said Essex education department spokesman, Mike Barnett.

Mr Barnett said the child's behavioural problems resulted in kicking, hitting and punching assaults on teachers and staff serving lunch. There were also numerous assaults on classmates and complaints had been received from parents.

Mr Barnett said it was "a very rare occurrence" for so young a child to display aggression consistently, and the primary school had patiently tried to resolve his problems before deciding that, for the good of the whole school, the child should be refused further teaching. The boy is now receiving home tuition, costing between 24,000 and 25,000.

Essex education authority also revealed yesterday a grant maintained school near Chelmsford excluded a 16-year-old girl from GCSE examinations after she became pregnant.

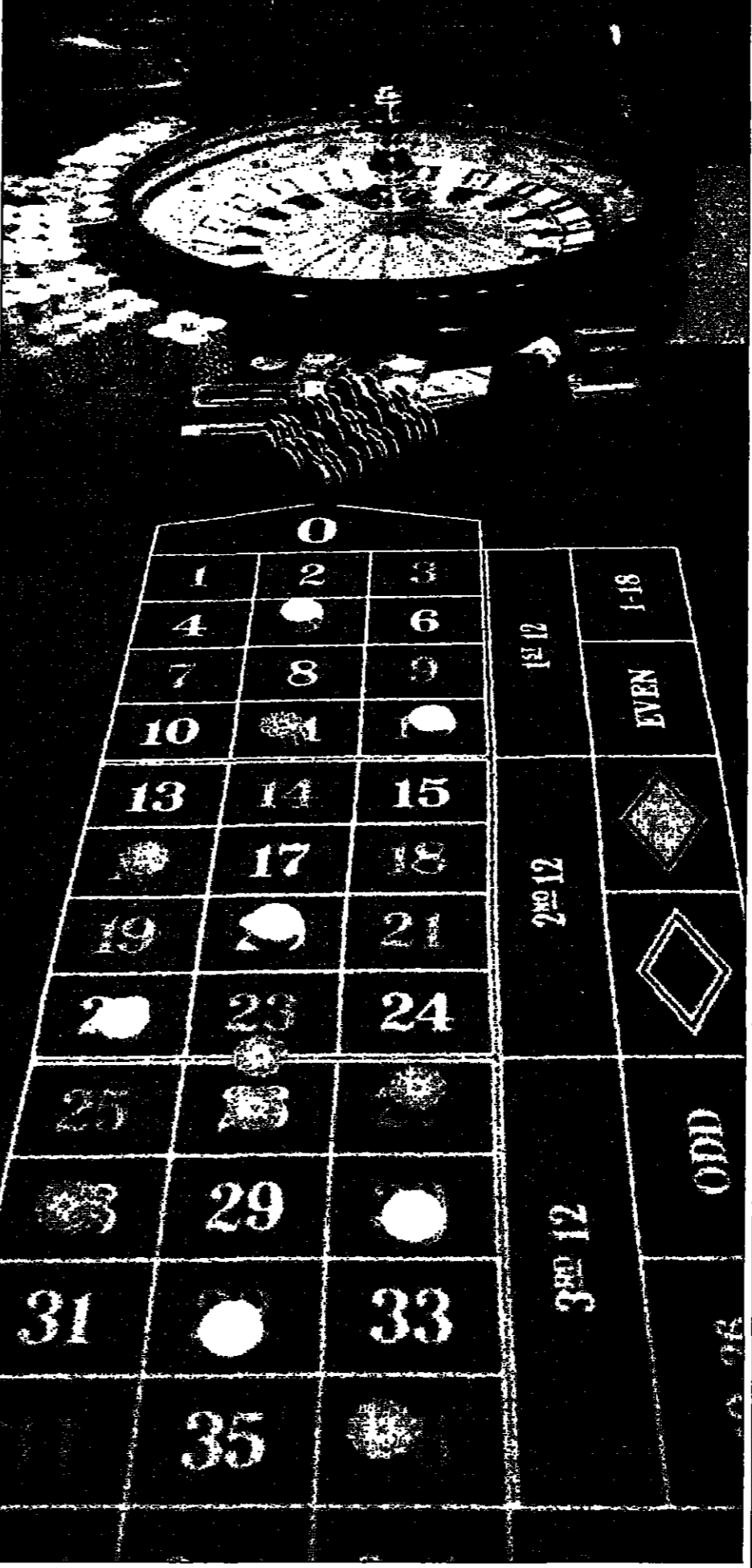
Mr Barnett said her expulsion was illegal because it had been done unilaterally by the school governors, whereas the law required the head teacher to decide, and then be endorsed by the governing body.

Although grant maintained schools are outside the direct

control of the county council, the authority intervened on her behalf but could not get her reinstated. Mr Barnett said he was concerned that some grant maintained schools were using unsatisfactory parameters and seemed more ready to expel for comparatively minor offences. One boy had been excluded for smoking a cigarette and another for exposing his bottom.

Mr Barnett said among grant maintained schools there appeared to be an inconsistent approach, with expulsion deemed a better option than making a significant effort to improve the behaviour of the pupil involved.

The education authority was concerned about the pregnant girl's exclusion because GCSE success depended heavily on the completion of course work, which was not easily possible outside school.



Unlucky for some: study warns against relaxation of casino laws PHOTOGRAPH: KENNETH SAUNDERS

Pressure increases as problem pupils soar

Authorities seek more funds to meet 40pc rise in special needs

Donald MacLeod
Education Correspondent

THE number of children in school needing special help for behavioural or learning difficulties is soaring, government figures will reveal today.

Local education authorities are pressing Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, for increased funding to cope with a 40 per cent rise in the proportion of children in mainstream schools with statements of special educational needs.

Increasing pressures on school resources and teachers' time have contributed to a series of confrontations over disruptive pupils, such as the unresolved dispute over a 10-year-old boy at Manton Junior School in Worsop, Nottinghamshire.

The rise is good news for parents, who are having their applications for statements of special educational needs processed quicker under a new

code of practice. The six-month rule, combined with moves by many authorities to close special schools and integrate physically and mentally disabled children into mainstream classrooms, has contributed to the rise from 153,000 pupils in 1991 to 211,000 in 1995.

But schools such as Manton junior are having to find extra money to meet these needs from their own budgets because authorities had no additional resources, according to Graham Lane, education chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities.

"When the new system was introduced we were assured there would not be any additional financial burden on schools," Mr Lane said. "But the huge growth in demand for special needs education is knocking such predictions for six."

"The Government is still denying the need for additional funding, putting ever greater pressure on education budgets and the welcome

trend towards greater integration."

Mr Lane also urged Mrs Shephard not to give in to demands from teachers and headteachers to curtail the rights of children and the powers of governors.

"The Government must be wary of the temptation of making legislative changes on the hoof," he said. "It would be a total disaster if children and their parents were denied the right of appeal to an independent body. Without such rights, many children could find themselves unjustly put out on the street."

Last night Manton Junior School parents were meeting the chairman of the county's education committee, Fred Riddell, to discuss the dispute. Some withdrew their children in protest at Matthew Wilson, aged 10, receiving individual tuition at an estimated cost of 24,000 a year in a deal to avert a strike by teachers.

An earlier meeting between parents and school governors broke up without agreement on how to resolve the dispute. Some parents threatened to keep children away from the school today.

How many?	Advertising	Slot machines?
Britain 120	Banned	Banned
US 648	No restrictions	100,000
France 148	Restricted	2,000
Germany 100	No restrictions	10,000
Spain 100	Restricted	10,000
Sweden 100	Banned	10,000

Source: The Social Implications of Casino Gambling, Home Office

Lottery blamed as study finds 1.5m hooked on gambling

Alan Travis
Home Affairs Editor

BRITAIN has up to 1.5 million "problem gamblers" with more than 500,000 who can be classed as "pathological or compulsive", according to Home Office research published yesterday.

The study warns ministers that their plans to relax casino laws could lead to increased crime and need to be accompanied by measures to prevent and treat problem gambling.

Its authors say the report is the first published by the Government to acknowledge the potential scale of problem gambling.

"We have seen a massive expansion in gambling since the launch of the National Lottery. Everyone assumes it is harmless entertainment but nobody is monitoring its effect at all. That is extraordinary," said Sue Fisher, a senior research fellow at Plymouth University, and co-author of the study.

"There should be no more deregulation until we take stock of the level of problem gamblers in Britain and what it costs them, their families and society."

The Home Secretary, Michael Howard, has announced plans to allow casinos to open in 15 new towns to relax the 48-hour waiting period for casino membership, and to lift the current bans on advertising and credit facilities.

But the Home Office-commissioned report concludes that any such deregulation package should recognise the scale of problem gambling and the severely limited treatment facilities available.

The study by Ms Fisher, and Iain Brown of Glasgow University, defines prob-

lem gamblers as those whose habit disrupts or damages their family, personal or recreational pursuits. They range from those who have significant debts as a result of gambling, to those who have had to borrow in the last year to pay gambling debts, to those who steal.

The estimate that there are 1.5 million problem gamblers in Britain is based on evidence from the US, New Zealand and the Netherlands, which suggests that just over 3 per cent of the adult population are problem gamblers. The report says that prevention and treatment programmes barely exist in Britain.

For most gamblers the 12-step quasi-religious Gamblers Anonymous programme is the only help available yet it has not proved to be the path to recovery for the majority. "Provision in the UK has until now, been extremely poor," say the authors.

A Gamblers Anonymous spokesman said: "The figures in this report must be about right because we have surveys around Britain and believe that for every addict who comes forward for help there are another 50 who do not."

A third of compulsive gamblers spent more than 40 per cent of their annual salary on gambling and surveys of Gamblers Anonymous members show that 85 per cent of them have become involved in crime.

International comparisons show that men tend to prefer craccino games such as blackjack and roulette while women problem gamblers favour bingo, lotteries and gambling machines. British youngsters prefer slot machines, which are seen as highly addictive and are widely available outside casinos.

'Discretion' urged on nurses' pay

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

NURSES should have no national pay rise next year, the Government will today tell the profession's pay review body.

Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, last night said the Government's written evidence to the pay review body would call for "maximum discretion" for NHS trusts to determine pay rises locally.

His comments came as trusts and health unions together spoke out over what one union leader called the "shambles" of this year's pay round. According to figures compiled for the trusts, only 26 of 530 have reached agreement with the unions. More than 160 have not tabled formal offers.

Bob Abberley, head of

health for Unison, the biggest NHS union, said: "It seems that the Government doesn't learn from experience. Clearly local bargaining has not worked and is not going to work in the future."

The Government's evidence on nurses' pay, which will be the same on therapists' pay, echoes what it said last year when it called for a "minimal increase" in national rates and "maximum scope to make modest total improvements" locally.

In the event, the review body awarded a national rise of 2 per cent from April this year, to be topped-up locally. But although this was announced in early February, progress at local level has been very slow.

Mr Dorrell, who was addressing the annual conference in Birmingham of the NHS Trust Federation, said

the Government's evidence for the 1997 pay round - to be lodged by today - would "seek to ensure the maximum discretion for meaningful local negotiations".

Asked later if that meant no national pay rise, the minister said: "I am not going to answer that question."

Mr Dorrell insisted that trusts were finally starting to take advantage of their freedom to determine local pay rates. However, Anne Galbraith, who chairs the federation's human resources committee, told him: "Never has so much energy been expended to try to sort out so little money."

Earlier, trusts heard from their own pay adviser that they had allowed the trade unions to make the running on pay.

Gordon Stewart, of Beaufort Management Consul-

tants, told trust leaders: "I think the unions have got the initiative. I think you have to seek it. I think that is a scandal."

The average offer was 2.75 per cent, including the 2 per cent national rise, Mr Stewart said. The typical settlement was a total 3 per cent, but four had been for 4 per cent or more.

Mr Abberley described the outlook as a shambles and typical of the "1970s British Leyland style" industrial relations the Government had forced on the NHS by insisting on local bargaining.

Warning that staff in one trust in Newcastle-upon-Tyne had already voted for industrial action, Mr Abberley told trusts: "Don't come beating to us about not having the money. Under the British Leyland system, it's your problem - not ours."

Agencies fight legal aid plan

Claire Dyer, Legal Correspondent

ADVICE agencies yesterday threatened to throw a spanner into the Government's plans for radical reform of the legal aid system, as 10 organisations launched a campaign to stop the proposals going ahead.

Under the plans, outlined in a white paper last July, advice agencies and solicitors' firms would tender for block contracts. But Steve Johnson, director of the Federation of Independent Advice Centres, representing 900 agencies, said his members would refuse to tender unless plans to charge a fee for legal aid to benefit claimants and others on low incomes were dropped.

The white paper proposes that agencies should means test applicants and that they could only give free advice to people on income support. If a case went to court, even those on benefit would have to pay a fee, possibly £20.

Mr Johnson said that agencies would boycott the scheme if they "had to collect

charges and were required to means test clients leaving some of those who don't qualify without a service".

Other organisations supporting the campaign are: the Law Society, the Advice Services Alliance, Liberty, Justice, the Child Poverty Action Group, Shelter, the Public Law Project, and the Legal Action Group.

Some agencies now mount test cases in the names of individuals on legal aid. David Thomas, director of the CPAG, said proposals to make litigants on legal aid pay their opponents' costs if they lose would make it impossible to find people to bring a test case. "We need to be able to tell claimants who are thinking of fronting a test case that they will not face any personal liability."

Implementation of the reforms may never happen if the Government loses the general election. Labour supports radical reform of the legal aid system, including block contracts for advice agencies and measures to control lawyers' fees. But it opposes cash limits for legal aid and one-off payments for the poor.

Resort not so glad to lose grey

Martin Walkwright

AS a greyscale sort of surf pounded the promenade and beach at Scarborough yesterday, hoteliers were praying more than ever that the old saying "All publicity is good publicity" would again prove true.

Scarred by headlines two months ago when Bulgaria's Euro 96 football team drove away in their luxury coach, dismissing the resort as "too boring", the Queen of the Yorkshire Coast was tottering from another blow.

Saga Holidays, the specialists in breaks for the over-30s, announced that the golden sands named by Skandi the Viking have been dropped from their next year's options. Customers' deeper purses, and yearning for something more exciting than a cliff-hunt or beach donkey, have edged the firm's brochure towards hotspots like Malaysia and Uzbekistan.

Conventional coach tours to Scarborough - or Newquay and Morecambe which have also been dropped - have been losing popularity.

said Saga chairman Roger de Haan. Today's grey tourists, the first generation brought up on overseas package holidays, were used to travelling to places with sea and sand and - Scarborough's frequent flaw - reliable sun.

Chief resorts officer Kevin Barrand dropped what appeared to be a sizeable brick when he shared with a Yorkshire Post reporter the description of the Saga and of the market as "old farts".

A rescue operation was mounted last night, with Susan Ewer, of the Scarborough Hoteliers' Association, praising the grey market as important and much appreciated. The cliff-top benches, - many, oddly, facing away from the sea - were also well-filled with appreciative visitors, none of whom will see 50 again.

Mr Barrand, meanwhile, was in rival Blackpool at the TUC conference, consoling himself with the most important statistical result of the Bulgarian snub. The story went around the world and is thought to be one of the main reasons why visitor numbers this year have gone up.

Going Places

0% COMMISSION WHEN YOU BUY HOLIDAY MONEY.....

0% COMMISSION WHEN YOU BRING IT BACK.

Britain's largest network for instantly-available holiday money

0% Commission offer excludes the sale of Sterling Travellers Cheques and is also from 19.96 - 29.96. 0% Commission offer is available on Foreign Currency and Foreign Currency. The above Commission offers are subject to our standard terms and conditions. 0% Commission offer and special availability are not available in the following areas: RAF Leeming, RAF Lyneham, RAF Mildenhall, RAF Northolt, RAF St. Athanas, RAF Upper Heyford, RAF Valley, RAF Waddington, RAF Welford, RAF Weston, RAF Woodvale, RAF Woodvale. Availability only available in the following areas: Northampton, Cambridge, Bedford, Luton, London, Essex, Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Hampshire, Devon, Cornwall, Dorset, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Warwickshire, Leicestershire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, North Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, East Yorkshire, East of England, South East, South West, Midlands, North West, Yorkshire and the Humber, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands, Gibraltar. © 1996 Going Places Ltd. All Rights Reserved.

Police custody

IRAQ CRISIS: Clinton ready to rescue local helpers • Baghdad threatens Kuwaitis • Arab world hails its hero

Turkey 'blocks US airlift' of imperilled dissidents

Thomas Lippman in Washington

THE Clinton administration is preparing to conduct a helicopter airlift to rescue about 2,000 Kurds and other Iraqi dissidents in northern Iraq who worked for the United States, but the refugees remain trapped because neighbouring Turkey is reluctant to let them in, senior American officials have said.

Those seeking to flee Iraq are mostly encamped near the Turkish border, awaiting an opportunity to cross. They do not appear to be in imminent danger, a US official said on Wednesday, since they have not dispersed into the mountains for protection.

The US would use its helicopters based at Incirlik, in Turkey, to ferry the refugees

across the border, but it does not yet have Ankara's permission.

State department, Pentagon and White House officials all denied reports from the region that the airlift was already under way.

Saddam Hussein, who reasserted his control over northern Iraq last week, has branded those who worked for Washington as "traitors", and their lives are in danger, administration officials said.

The state department spokesman, Nicholas Burns, said: "We have identified several thousand people who were with us over the last five years, and these include people who have worked with us, and their family members who are at peril ... We're attempting to bring them to safety."

This is not the first time people who worked with the US abroad have been

stranded when Washington pulled out. It happened in South Vietnam in 1975.

In Iraq, the people in danger are Kurdish separatists and dissident Iraqi Arabs who worked for the US and allied military forces in Operation Provide Comfort, enforcing the "no-fly zone" or distributing humanitarian aid to the Kurdish population.

The fate of the refugees could provide the first test of relations between Washington and the Turkish administration of Necmettin Erbakan — the first Islamist government of the Nato ally. Washington's contact is largely with the moderate, pro-Western foreign minister, Tansu Ciller, but she reports to Mr Erbakan.

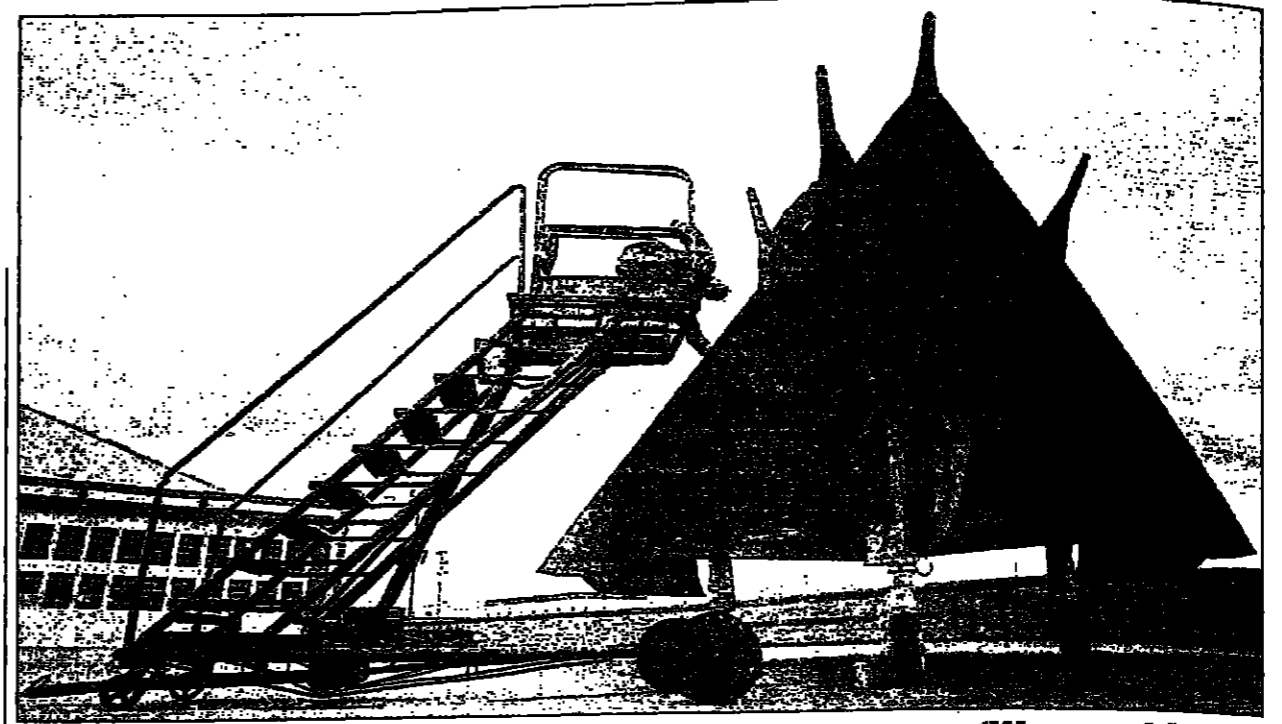
Mr Burns said it "made sense" for the US to "try to get the [refugees] out of Iraq because if we don't we cannot

be at all sure that their lives would be protected against the security goons of Saddam Hussein."

"We're going to continue to talk to the Turkish government about this problem. We hope very much that the Turkish government will agree with us that we need to complete this operation quickly and protect these people." — Washington Post.

• Kurdish refugees yesterday accused the Iraqi-backed Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) of executing 25 fighters of the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan in violation of an amnesty, the Iranian news agency Irna said.

Meanwhile, one person was killed and another was wounded when Iraqi troops and KDP forces fired at Kurdish refugees on the Iran-Iraq border, Irna reported yesterday.



'We consider this conduct on the part of the Kuwaiti regime a flagrant, aggressive action against the Iraqi people' Tariq Aziz

'Totally unacceptable' William Perry on Iraq's threat to Kuwait

'Iraq will defend its air space' Abd-al-Ghafur

'The determination of the United States in dealing with the problem of Iraq should not be underestimated' President Clinton

'What is happening in Iraq hurts the souls of all Muslims' Abdul-Karim al-Kabiriti of Jordan



Shadow over the sun... Iraqis shop at a Baghdad market while (top) an F-117A Stealth fighter at the United States' Holloman air force base in Alamogordo, New Mexico, is readied for yesterday's deployment to the Gulf PHOTOGRAPHS: JASSIM MOHAMED AND BILL HAINES

Don't count on us, say French

Ian Black Diplomatic Editor

FRANCE expressed its "deep concern" yesterday at the latest escalation of tension in the Gulf as international anxieties grew about the possibility of additional United States military action — and Iraq took verbal aim at Kuwait.

The Iraqi deputy prime minister, Tariq Aziz, told Kuwait it would be committing "an act of war" if it allowed US warplanes to use its territory for attacks on his country.

"We consider this conduct on the part of the Kuwaiti regime a flagrant aggressive action against the Iraqi people and an act of war against the state of Iraq ... and we are confident that fair experts in international law, Arabs or foreigners, would confirm this conclusion," Mr Aziz said.

Washington maintained its tough stance, however, and again implied that a large-scale strike on President Saddam Hussein would come soon. William Perry, the US defence secretary, said the Iraqi threat to Kuwait was "totally unacceptable".

B-52 bombers and Stealth fighter-bombers were on their way to Kuwait last night as part of the US build-up. Kuwait pointed to its defence agreement with the US in support of its decision to allow in the Stealth bombers.

Iraq was far from alone in its criticism of US actions. France, one of the principal Gulf war allies and a leading sceptic over last week's cruise missile attacks, implied that Washington was acting unilaterally and could

not automatically count on its support.

"We are in contact with the US and we believe it is necessary for the partners in Operation Provide Comfort to continue to consult on their evaluation of the situation and on their intentions," a foreign ministry spokesman, Jacques Rummelhardt, said.

France broke ranks with the US and Britain last week by refusing to patrol the expanded no-fly zone in southern Iraq. Jean-Claude Mallet, the ministry's director of strategic affairs, made clear yesterday that French pilots in the Gulf had been instructed to seek clearance from Paris if asked to come to the assistance of US planes.

US officials acknowledge that efforts need to be made to keep the French happy and the deputy secretary of state, Strobe Talbott, has had consultations with French and Russian officials in Paris.

French coolness contrasted with the strong support being given to the US by Britain, which has again agreed to the use of its Diego Garcia base in the Indian Ocean for B-52 bombers — and is involved in consultations about the new attacks.

Britain has lined up squarely with Washington's new line that the West must concentrate not on the Kurds in the north but on Saddam's threat to oil interests in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Russia, which criticised last week's attacks, has said little this week but Western diplomats predict an angry response if new attacks are mounted.

The Arab League, meanwhile, said it would not discuss US threats of another air strike on Iraq during a weekend ministerial meeting.

Bombs rebound on Washington

Maggie O'Kane in Amman

ALONG the green embassy belt in the hills overlooking the Jordanian capital of Amman, Western diplomats have no doubts about the potential impact of another American attack on Iraq.

"Clinton is creating a hero with these attacks," said one diplomat who has been in the region for two years. "Saddam can say to the rest of the Arab world, 'Look at me, the Americans think they can walk all over us Arabs and I'm the only one that's standing up to them!'"

Another Arabic speaking diplomat, who regularly makes the 15-hour journey to Baghdad, said: "Saddam must be very pleased with the last two weeks; he's got control in the north, his secret police are wiping out the opposition still hiding there, the Iraqis have got the shove and he's becoming a symbol of Arab resistance."

But it is not just the diplomats in Amman who wonder if the Clinton administration is doing the right thing. Jordan, Iraq's neighbour, is a land of computer programmers and investment bankers where there is no love for President Saddam Hussein, but yesterday — at least among the dozens of people the Guardian spoke to — there was not a single voice in favour of air strikes.

Carol Lawson, a Briton who has spent 20 years working in Bahrain, Kuwait and Jordan, explained: "Underneath, the strongest thing is the Arab

brotherhood. They don't like Saddam, but he belongs to them. They remember when the West ran things here and they don't like them thinking they can still throw their weight around."

Emaha Ali, a housewife, says she is not political, "but I have feelings, and they're rushing in to this thinking they can fire off their B-52s and their Stealth bombers whenever they want". Laher Zantout, an accountant, aged 36, also attacks the haste. "Look at Bosnia and all those years of saying they couldn't possibly get involved. But when it comes to Iraq, it's straight in with the bombs."

Despite rumours of a summer of coup-attempts and assassination bids against President Saddam, diplomats in Amman say reports of internal unrest in Iraq are exaggerated by opposition groups in exile.

"If you listened to all the rumours during the summer, he's already survived being poisoned by chickens in the 1990-91, he's been killed by an underwater bomb when he was swimming near his home town in Tikrit or being blasted from the air one Sunday when he was in one of his new palaces," said one diplomat.

On a magazine rack near the centre of town, the Iraqi leader stares out from most newspapers. "He's on the cover of every magazine in the world now," said Joseph Kasim, an engineer aged 36. "I feel bad. They have given him a big boost in the Arab world — the Saddam Hussein expiry date has been extended."

A mortgage quote in 10 minutes flat. No wonder it's called a hotline.

Make a quick call to TSB PhoneBank for a free mortgage quote. Because you'll save yourself a lot of time by finding out exactly how much you can borrow before you go house hunting. So if you want a free quote in ten minutes flat, ring TSB PhoneBank on the number below and simply ask for it.

CALL FREE Quoting ref GUH2 **0500 758 000**

Mortgage Quotation Line **TSB** We want you to say YES

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Eastwood 'sabotaged' film career of ex-paramour

Ian Katz in New York

WHEN Sondra Locke filed for bankruptcy, she sued her former paramour Clint Eastwood, the celluloid hard man did not invite her to go ahead and make his day.

Instead the actor offered to help her secure a lucrative film development deal with a big Hollywood studio if she dropped her suit.

But the \$1 million contract he brokered with Warner Brothers was designed specifically to stymie her budding career, she alleges.

The actress and director is suing her former paramour for \$1.35 million, alleging fraud and contractual interference.

"This deal with Warner Brothers was a sham," her lawyer, Peggy Garrity, told jurors on the first day of their civil trial in Burbank, California. "It caused her serious harm and destroyed her directorial career."

Ms Locke claims the deal was used by Mr Eastwood to duck a potentially costly paternity battle. A secret clause in the agreement required him to reimburse the studio for any expenses it accrued from the contract and most of the original sum paid to Ms Locke was billed to Mr Eastwood's film, Unforgiven, she claims.

Between 1990 and 1993 Ms Locke, aged 49, proposed 30 films to Warner, all of which were rejected. Her previous two films were well reviewed but commercial flops. The suit claims Mr Eastwood used his influence with Warner to persuade them not to promote her 1993 thriller Impulse.

Mr Eastwood has denied the allegations.

Amazon deforestation has increased sharply

Brazil's claims of progress are ill-founded, reports Diana Jean Schemo in Rio de Janeiro

DEFORESTATION has increased sharply in Brazil since the 1992 Earth Summit, despite government claims that stricter environmental laws had slowed destruction of the Amazon rain forest, new figures show.

Fires and logging have consumed an area of forest the size of Denmark in just a few years.

The data, which covered deforestation from 1991 to 1994, appeared to support assertions by environmental groups that a drop-off in deforestation by 1991 was caused more by an economic downturn than by significant government action.

It also put an end to government claims that deforestation had continued to decline in the years since the Earth Summit, when 118 countries gathered for the largest environmental conference ever held, and Brazil enjoyed the public relations windfall of seemingly having gained control over the destruction.

"I think in the mind of many people, the burning of the Amazon rain forest had a beginning, a middle and an end," said Stephen Schwartzman, a senior scientist at the Environmental Defence Fund. The new data, he said, contradicted that impression.

The burning of the Amazon is not over. It's getting worse.

The data shows that deforestation rose by 34 per cent, from 4,296 square miles in the 1990-91 burning season to 5,750 square miles a year by 1994.

Analysis of the data for last year is expected to show a greater increase, since many recent fires were detected raging in virgin forest, said Philip Fearnside, an ecology professor at the National Institute for Research in the Amazon, in Manaus.

As the updated figures were issued, the government announced a series of measures to crack down on the illegal logging of mahogany, and increased to 80 per cent, from 50 per cent, the share of property that landowners in the Amazon must preserve as tropical forest.

The measures came shortly before a meeting this week in Bonn where representatives from the Group of Seven leading industrialised countries are gathering to evaluate a £185 million fund for pilot

projects to save the Amazon. So far, only about £7 million has been spent, said an American state department spokesman.

The European Commission yesterday announced extra funding of about \$85 million for the so-called FPB, a joint project between the Brazilian government and the European Union and World Bank to save the rain forests.

By the eve of the Bonn meeting, the discovery of irregularities had caused the cancellation or suspension of 62 per cent of the 1,200 authorisations for cutting mahogany and virgata, said Paulo Beninca, the director of natural and renewable resources at the Brazilian federal environmental agency. The next step, he added, will be enforcement in the field.

The new measures won praise from environmentalists, but many said they could gauge their importance only after seeing how seriously they would be enforced. Many worry that the action will die down when international attention fades. — New York Times.

the week

With specialist news, profiles and the latest developments

Read the week

Every Saturday

The Guardian

مكزامن الناصيل

Conference clash poses Euro-sceptic headache

Tories try to block Dublin EU summit

John Palmer in Brussels

THE British government has made a last-ditch attempt to postpone the special European Union summit in Dublin, scheduled to be held just days before the Conservative Party conference next month, Irish EU presidency officials said yesterday.

France and Germany want to use the summit to help break the deadlock on the Maastricht treaty review negotiations on closer political union, while stepping up the drive for a single currency in 1999.

But John Major fears the meeting will only inflame Tory Euro-sceptics who intend to use the party conference in Bournemouth to demand that he rules out Britain's participation in the monetary union.

"During the recent discussion by EU foreign ministers in Tralee about a special summit, the Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind said he was doubtful whether it would serve any purpose. But it was agreed to go ahead with the summit on October 5," an Irish official said yesterday.

"Now the British government has written formally to us reiterating their objections in very strong terms. It seems they would prefer it is cancelled." The Tory conference begins on October 8.

Given the enthusiasm of President Jacques Chirac and Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Dublin is most unlikely to bow to British pressure. "We

have taken soundings today in other EU capitals. Other dates are impossible, the conclusion looks like 'press ahead'," the official said.

Government sources confirmed they have expressed "considerable doubts" about the summit to the Irish government. "From the point of view of ministers, this is not the most opportune time for such a summit. We certainly remain to be convinced that it can achieve anything of value," said one.

There is no question of Mr Major leaving Britain's summit seat empty. But while France and Germany have scaled down their ambitions for a new political union treaty and moved closer to Britain on defence and foreign policy, Mr Major will not want to reveal in public at this stage any concessions he is ready to make.

These include acceptance that, in future, common EU foreign policy proposals should be prepared in Brussels rather than by national capitals. Britain is also ready to drop its objections to the incorporation into the Maastricht treaty — for the first time — of a new international security role for the EU, including peacekeeping missions.

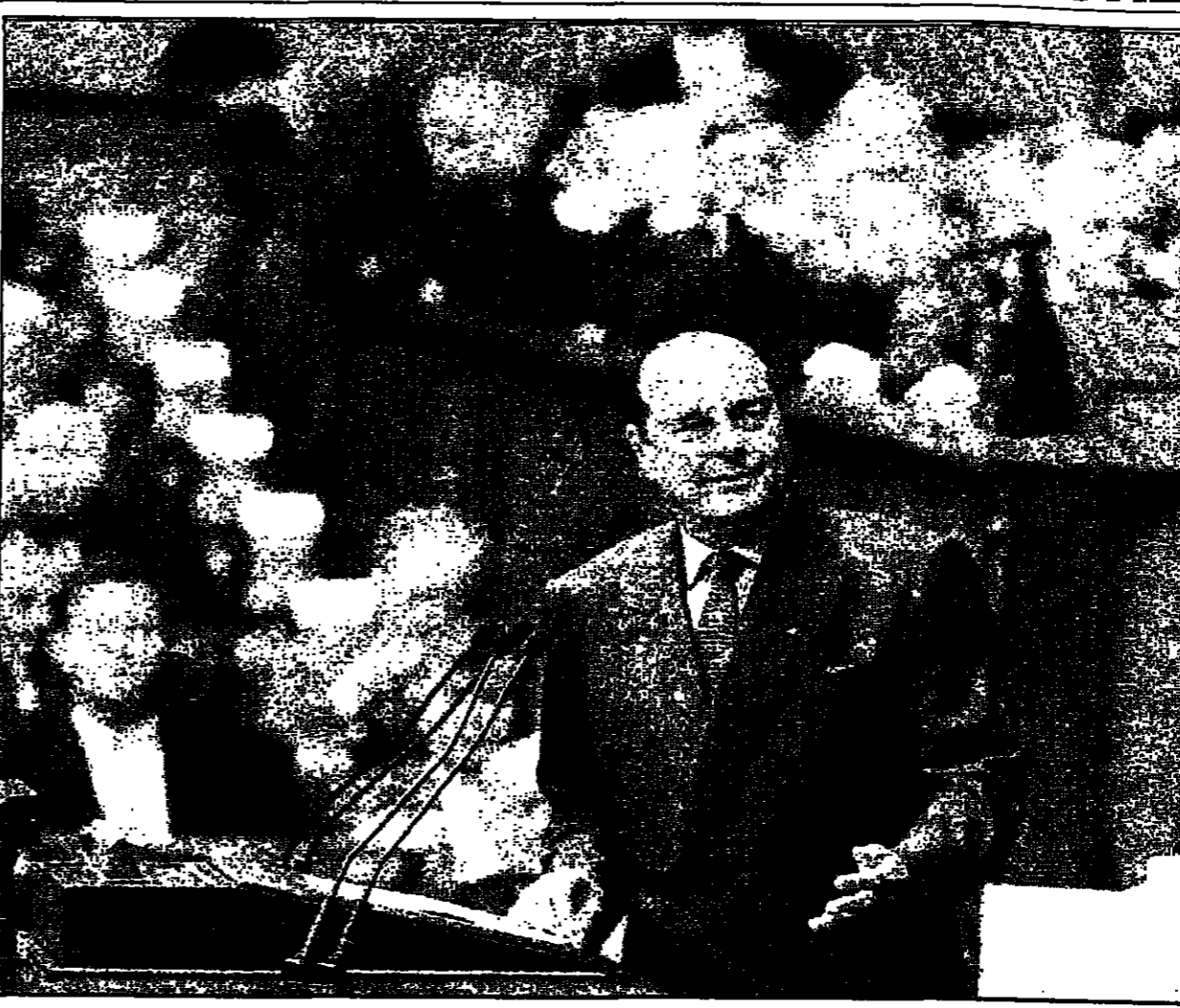
Meanwhile, in a move which will make it easier for France to meet single currency conditions, the European Commission is expected to approve an agreement between the French government and France Telecom under which the state will pay employees' pensions. In return the government will be paid a

jump sum of \$5.5 billion — 0.4 per cent of GDP. If approved, the deal would give Paris a painless way of bringing its budget deficit closer to the 3 per cent target set out in the Maastricht treaty.

The commission has confirmed that a study of the growing importance of services in European economies is likely to lead to a wholesale revaluation of GDP figures after 1999, making it easier for countries in the single currency to respect long-term ceilings on budget deficits and government debt.

Governments also this week moved close to an agreement on a long-term single currency "stability pact", which will be discussed by finance ministers in Dublin.

It provides for financial sanctions against countries which run persistent excessive budget deficits after monetary union. Agreement on the pact will meet a key German condition and make it easier for Bonn to agree to a "more flexible" application of the single currency criteria.



President Jacques Chirac of France addresses the Polish parliament yesterday during a visit. PHOTOGRAPH: JACKY NAEGELIN

Chirac backs Poles

Anthony Barker in Warsaw

FRANCE hopes Warsaw will join the European Union by the year 2000, the French president, Jacques Chirac, told the Polish parliament yesterday.

Mr Chirac said in a speech to both houses that talks on EU membership for Poland should begin in just over a year. He also supported Warsaw's desire to join the Nato alliance, saying the process should begin next year "in an irreversible way".

Although Brussels officials suggest that 2002 would be a more realistic date for Poland's EU membership, given the time needed for negotiation and ratification, Mr Chirac's aides have said Warsaw could achieve its goal two years earlier with some concessions.

Mr Chirac proposed that a conference be called to gather candidate countries and the 15 member states, not as a substitute for entry talks but as a political and economic forum. — Reuter.

Crunch vote on cuts for Kohl

Ian Traynor in Bonn

CHANCELLOR Helmut Kohl of Germany faces a crunch parliamentary vote today, needing to muster an absolute majority to push through controversial spending cuts aimed at enabling the country to qualify for a single European currency.

Key elements of Mr Kohl's austerity drive — cutting sick pay and child benefit, and easing it easier for small firms to shed employees — were rebuffed yesterday by the opposition-controlled upper house, or Bundesrat.

Mr Kohl could override that opposition today by securing 337 votes in the 672-seat lower house. His coalition of Christian Democrats and Liberals has 341 seats, meaning that a three-line whip is being applied to pack the chamber.

Today's vote caps a four-day debate on the budget for next year — the yardstick year for deciding which countries are fit for the single European currency in 1999.

The opposition Social Democrats rejected overtures from Mr Kohl to cooperate in the drive to boost the economy, claiming the government had pursued "rotten" policies that had taken unemployment to a post-war record of about 4 million, and the country to the cusp of recession.

The trade unions have been warning of strikes and mass resistance to the austerity measures, which hit welfare benefits and raise the retirement age while including tax breaks for business and other supply side

measures to boost the economy. Theo Waigel, the finance minister, argued that there was no alternative to the package, which is likely to be approved today.

Bonn and Paris appear determined to defy popular resistance and anxiety to push through the cuts to get their budget deficits and state debt levels under the ceilings set by the Maastricht treaty for participation in economic and monetary union.

The French and German finance and economics ministers and the central bank chiefs are to meet in Bavaria next week, in what is being seen as an attempt to co-ordinate their positions before a meeting of EU finance ministers in Ireland next weekend.

But the grim reality of poor economic performance threatens to wreck Bonn's best-laid plans.

Wolfgang Schaenble, Mr Kohl's number two, hinted yesterday at the need for more cuts. The government has admitted that its projections for this year have already been rendered redundant by soaring unemployment, consequent loss of tax revenue, and extra dole payments.

Mr Waigel said this week that the budget deficit would be closer to DM70 billion (£30.5 billion) rather than the budgeted DM60 billion, a 16 per cent increase. Last year's growth forecasts were also overly optimistic.

Mr Schaenble said yesterday that once the cuts being decided today were in place, a balance would have to be drawn later in the year to decide whether spending would need to be further throttled to meet the EMU conditions.

free eurostar return ticket

with every first class business return

"One who follows a carrot may not be a donkey. But one who does not, is surely an ass."

E. CANTONA.



Impotence

A new book *The Potent Man* contains the latest information on impotence problems — what can go wrong, the causes and how it can best be treated. The book gives you specific facts on brand new treatments available — from new drugs and medical treatments to the effects of traditional and natural remedies on impotence.

FREE with this book — *The 20 Minute Miracle Method For Men* by Dr Richard Silurian. This simple technique was devised by Dr Silurian who has successfully worked with impotence sufferers for many years.

Get all the facts. To order your copy of *The Potent Man* send your name, address and book title with payment (cheque, Switch or Visa/Access with expiry date) of £9.95 which includes postage and handling to Carnell Ltd, Dept D554, Aylesford, nr Colchester, Essex CO7 8AP, or telephone their 24 hour order line on 01206 625600 (quoting above Dept code). Allow up to 14 days for delivery. You may return the book any time within three months for a refund if not satisfied.

News in brief

Pakistan stalls on test ban

Pakistan yesterday welcomed the United Nations' nuclear test ban treaty but said it would not sign the document until it was first signed by India.

A foreign ministry spokesman said the Pakistani government was determined to "reserve the right to respond adequately to any nuclear escalation by India". — Reuter.

Soccer deaths

Eleven members of a women's football team were killed in Nigeria after their bus careered into a deep river near Lagos. The roads were slippery from heavy rains but the cause of the accident was unclear. — AP.

Mafia raid

Italian police burst in on a dawn summit of suspected Naples mobsters yesterday and arrested seven people thought to be Mafia leaders. Dogs and helicopters were used in the operation, which found two pistols. — Reuter.

eurostar
business
0345 30 30 30
or see your travel agent

*Free ticket is a standard class Eurostar return. Offer applies to business first and premium first tickets that are issued in the UK for travel on or before December 31st 1996. Free ticket travel must be completed by 31st March 1997 and is subject to availability.

World hails its hero

We consider this conduct as part of the Kuwaiti regime's flagrant, aggressive action against the Iraqi people.

Totally unacceptable

It will defend its airspace

Abd-al-Ghaffar

The determination of the United States in dealing with the problems Iraq should not be underestimated.

What is happening in Iraq hurts the souls of all Muslims.

prestation and sharply

With specialist news, photos and the latest developments read the week.

The Guardian

Diary Matthew Norman

What promises to be one of the more dramatic legal showdowns, Postman Pat is threatening to take the Communications Workers' Union to court...

MEANWHILE, in another enticing test case, a sub-editor fired by the Manchester office of the Daily Sport for inventing quotes is suing the paper on the grounds that he was paid to do exactly that...

WHILE Sir James Goldsmith grabs the headlines, news arrives of a more obscure political party dedicated to this country's withdrawal from Europe...

IN his elegant Daily Mail column, my friend Richard Littlejohn considers Peter Snow's attack on spin doctors...

AN ingenious twist to solving an old problem comes from Huntingdon, where the council this week responded to complaints about long grass obscuring a speed-limit sign on a verge...

BEST OF ENEMIES, the new novel from Milady Eve Pollard's Splash! trio of authors, has a late re-visit to the dustbin, which the lack of sex in the opening chapters appeared to have consigned it...

MAKE 'EM LAUGH, a comedy show scheduled to begin today (Friday the 13th) at Leeds City Varieties Theatre, has been cancelled after two of its star comedians died.



I don't want Brussels to ban the Mail, but...

Commentary Peter Preston

IS IT a tide? Is it a beam? Either way, we're talking Filth with a capital F (and the Daily Mail is leading the charge)...

IN 1989 the Commission in Brussels and its ministerial masters agreed a directive on "television without frontiers"...

entire page of an editorial blending smacked children, Spanish haddock and now this "insatiable meddler" over Filth into a rich stew of fury and ripping up the Treaty of Rome before breakfast...

two cases, only one of which touched Britain. By far the more important case, ironically, involved Belgium and the increasing propensity of the French and Flemish halves of that snarly country to do their own thing...

legislation which made the up-linking country responsible, whilst others had chosen the head-office option. Please could we all do the same thing? That's what the European Court of Justice has decided this week...

The foaming edifice was wrong: wholly, absolutely, ravagingly, heedlessly up the creek

lately unaffected by the new European ruling. Our defences remain completely in place. Indeed, because there will be no more hassles over which country is the prime mover, the Luxembourg decision was probably bad news for porn merchants everywhere...

where the Belgian government (say) banned the sale of the Daily Mail because it was like the Paul Dacre's leader line. (Don't scoff: governments around the world pull that stunt without drawing breath) Equally, then, I want television channels to be similarly ubiquitously available...

My part in the virgin's bad hair day



Bel Littlejohn

Let's rock! As you will have gathered, my public-relations company, Bel and Friends, has had its hands firmly on the propellers of the new Church of England Yuletide marketing campaign...

slogan, for quite a product. Nuff said. Initial estimates indicate it will attract a sizeable number of young people well into single figures to come to church this Christmas...



Peter Clarke

Nazi gold and the news

David Cesarani argues that the presentation of history as news is unhelpful in enabling us to deal with the its moral and practical implications

ONE of the intriguing questions arising from the latest "revelations" about the conduct of Swiss banks during and after the second world war is why it took so long for this particular chapter of history to hit the headlines...

here, in our newspaper or on our TV screen. History ceases to be the realm of the boring dead and becomes something in which we ourselves participate...

with the Germans, are being urged to seek compensation by children or grandchildren for whom such recourse is more natural and acceptable...

Pollen, pet hairs, dust and dust mites... virtually nothing escapes the 8 1/2 lb ORECK XL

Advertisement for Oreck XL vacuum cleaner, featuring a large image of the vacuum and text describing its features like HEPA filtration and motor power.

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

Banks 'planning new wave of job cuts'

Union says Lloyds-TSB branch closures are only the prelude

Martyn Halsall

WORKERS in the financial services industry were warned to brace themselves for another wave of job cuts as Lloyds-TSB announced the closure of 150 branches.

The industry has lost 120,000 jobs in six years, as a spate of mergers and the introduction of new technology have taken their toll. Further consolidation among building societies and insurers is expected.

The union fears that closures will accelerate once a private bill, to permit banking operations of Lloyds and the TSB to combine, goes through Parliament. Mr Townsend yesterday urged MPs and peers to insert guarantees against compulsory redundancies in the bill.

The bank said that 150 branch closures were "about the numbers we are looking at" as part of a constant review of banking needs. Changes in the way that people did their banking, particularly with the growth of telephone banking, meant

that some branches were not viable. The introduction of new technology, particularly the spread of automatic teller machines, and changes in banking habits have taken their toll on almost all the high-street banks. The big four banks - Barclays, Lloyds, Midland and NatWest - closed almost 2,000 branches between 1989 and 1994.

Branch closures have had a direct effect on job numbers, as centralisation of administration processes has led to mass redundancies among clerical staff. In June, Barclays announced plans to cut 1,000 clerical and managerial staff, just months after shedding

Notebook

Poll play leaves Tories boxed in

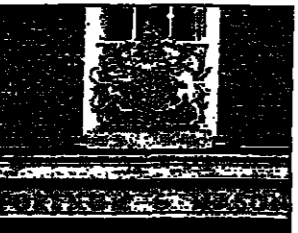


Edited by Alex Brummer

IN MANY respects, the Tories have chosen sensibly in targeting interest rates for their next assault on Labour. Plainly, it is politically shrewd in that mortgage rates are, on most measures, at a 30-year low. It is also significant from a City perspective.

proposals. All that chairman Richard Giordano would say is that the board would announce whether it would take its case to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission well before the October 7 deadline.

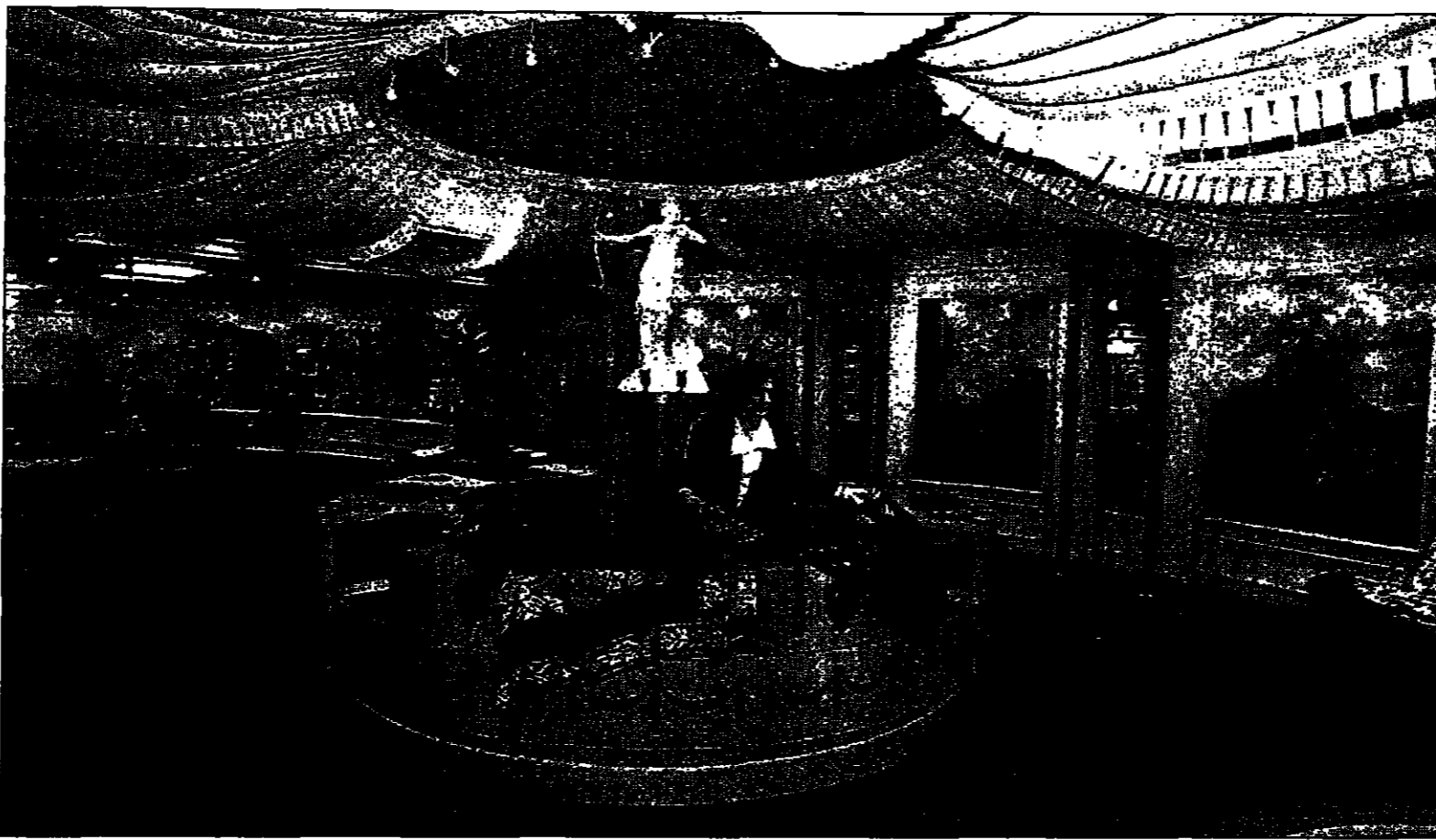
British Gas's caution is understandable. With the brinkmanship not serious, it prefers to do its negotiating in private. The company feels, with justification, that it needs time to assess the implications of the Spottiswoode proposals, published only last month, to introduce competition in metering, storage and mains connection.



Royal deli plans spread

Sarah Ryle

FROM the rash of Churchill pubs on the Costa del Sol to the cutesy tea shoppes in Japanese and American theme parks, English tradition has been spinning money for foreigners for many years.



Entering the space age... expansion will not alter other-worldly air of Fortnum & Mason ladieswear department

quality groceries and household necessities such as Limoges china. As the nearest grocer of any size to Buckingham Palace, the store is, unsurprisingly, the favoured deli for the Queen and her mother.

plans for an airport shop, on Harrods lines, to give visitors one last chance to take home a packet of Breakfast Tea.

many years, and reflects the board's confidence to develop Fortnum & Mason as we approach our fourth century of trading on this site.

plans to raise about \$5.1 billion, net of expenses, through a one-for-eight rights issue.

many years, and reflects the board's confidence to develop Fortnum & Mason as we approach our fourth century of trading on this site.

British Gas to act after £7m loss

Chris Barrie Business Correspondent

BRITISH Gas pledged yesterday to restore its tarnished reputation by taking drastic action to improve standards of customer service by the end of the year.

man, Richard Giordano, said dividends would be affected by the outcome of the company's battle with the industry regulator, Clare Spottiswoode, over controls planned for the TransCo gas transmission business.

Spottiswoode over price controls on the supply business were more likely. Yesterday's results were depressed by £50 million needed to set up systems designed to run the gas system with the advent of competition in the domestic market, particularly the Network Code.

Gillette takes over Duracell in \$7bn deal

Mark Tran in New York

GILLETTE scooped up one of the world's top brands yesterday when it bought Duracell.



Duracell has introduced new products and is making a big push overseas.

Mr Zelen, who took over Gillette in 1991, has made several acquisitions in recent years, but despite his desire to decrease Gillette's reliance on shaving products, these account for the lion's share.

Pension trustees shun Morgan

Richard Miles

MORGAN Grenfell, the investment bank at the centre of an investigation by City watchdog Inro, is set to lose up to £2 billion of new pension business from institutional investors this year.

its institutional pension clients had been affected by irregularities detected in the three European funds.

Mr Young, speaking for the first time since his suspension, claimed yesterday that he had been made a scapegoat by Morgan Grenfell and feared he would lose everything including his £450,000 house in the Buckinghamshire stockbroker belt.

London investors seek independent assessment of Olivetti

Nicholas Bannister and John Glover in Milan

LARGE London-based investors in Olivetti are to demand independent confirmation of the troubled Italian computer group's recent half-year results when they meet its chief executive next week.

Italian authorities to establish the true figures. "We need to know how the figures were reached," said one institutional shareholder.

"We need details of the inventory and contracts with suppliers, factoring arrangements, future borrowing needs and so on. We want more discussion about the company's industrial strategy, particularly the future of the personal computer manufacturing operation."

TOURIST RATES - BANK SELLS

Table with 4 columns: Country, Rate, Country, Rate. Includes Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, USA.

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).

Double jeopardy: Cash dries up for poverty-stricken nations as government support becomes 'unfashionable'

'Public does not believe money is really helping the poorest people'

Justin Forsyth of Oxfam



Abandoned... Aid agencies say Mozambique would be in dire straits if thrown on the mercies of private investors

PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN SMITH

World Bank admits defeat on state aid

Private investment is declared only viable alternative as West reneges on Third World funding

Sarah Ryle

THE World Bank has admitted that it is fighting a losing battle with western governments over aid to the world's poorest countries and is secretly looking for ways to use private capital to replace the lost funds.

A top-level ad hoc panel set up earlier this year by James Wolfensohn, the Bank's president, to discuss how to offset the anticipated decline in government aid has suggested private-sector investment is the only viable alternative.

"The panel believes that government aid has gone out of fashion and will never reach traditional levels again," a senior source said. "So far, the only concrete al-

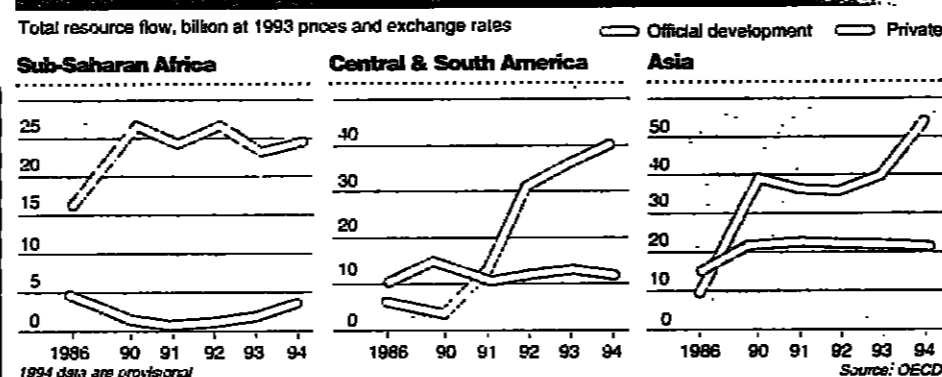
ternative is investment from the markets. That would mean forming new guidelines to make sure that investment was properly used by the governments who received it.

"The World Bank could not be a police force, but it could influence the way money is lent or invested." There are long-standing fears that aid is misused, particularly for military purposes, by Third World dictatorships.

The admission of defeat alarmed some leading charities. Justin Forsyth, Oxfam International's chief officer in Washington, said any further decline in official aid would leave many of the world's poorest nations in desperate straits.

"Some countries, like Mozambique, do not have a choice. They will not attract

Changing finances of developing counties



private investment because of their internal troubles. If official aid declines, they will have no way of funding basic needs like education and hospitals.

Andrew Simms, Christian Aid spokesman in London, said: "This is what we have feared all along."

Official development fi-

nance has fallen in recent years from \$70 billion (£46 billion) to \$65 billion, while private capital flows have risen rapidly, to more than \$105 billion between 1991 and 1994, according to the latest OECD figures.

Mr Forsyth called on the World Bank not to give up the fight to persuade industrial

countries to maintain contributions but said it was not surprising that the World Bank was concerned about the future of aid.

He said: "The World Bank has lost credibility with governments because the public does not believe the money is really helping the poorest people. The NGOs [non-governmental organisations] think that the World Bank is more concerned with lending large amounts of money than with it reaching the people it is supposed to help."

Mr Simms said further reliance on the markets would be the final blow for countries in sub-Saharan Africa. "They

have suffered because western countries have realigned funding since the cold war ended. More money is being channelled into eastern and central Europe. If the decline in aid were being matched by productive private capital inflows we wouldn't be so worried, but it isn't."

The ideological shift to the right, initiated by Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan, has put more emphasis on leaving development in the Third World to the free market.

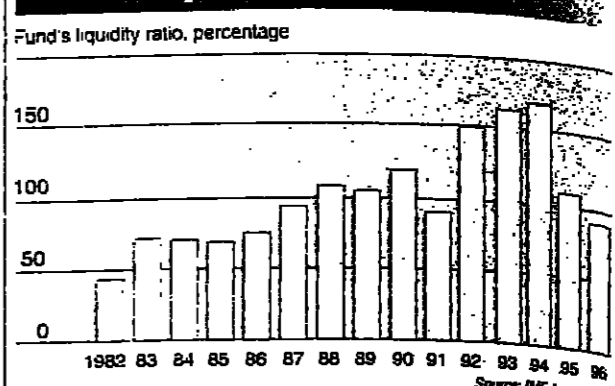
The World Bank's fears for official international aid have been fuelled by resistance among key donor nations to recent funding programmes.

While the Republican-dominated US Congress has thrown the aid programme into chaos by holding back on hundreds of millions of dollars which it had pledged in previous years, the Germans have put the brakes on a British-driven plan to sell international Monetary Fund gold reserves to increase debt relief.

In each case, politicians are acutely aware of the public response to approving bigger donations. Germany has refused to sell its gold reserves to fund programmes in eastern Germany, and politicians are understood to be reluctant to approve an international sale in case they are forced to do the same at home.

British official aid to the developing world is set to decline by 16 per cent by 1999, according to Christian Aid.

IMF's liquidity



IMF seeks to double capital after rise in crisis lending

Main industrial countries likely to resist large quota increase

Alex Brummer Financial Editor

THE International Monetary Fund is to ask shareholders for a large increase in its capital base after a sharp deterioration in the Fund's cash position.

Nichel Camdessus, the managing director, has indicated that he would like to see the Fund's quotas — the equivalent of its capital base — doubled from the current \$210 billion (£135 billion).

The IMF's annual report, released last night, shows that the Fund's liquidity has tumbled to the lowest levels since 1987 because of the pressure put on its resources by the 1995 Mexican crisis and lending to support the Yeltsin administration in Russia. Moscow was the biggest borrower from the Fund in the last financial year, using up \$5.5 billion of Fund quotas or resources.

Russia is currently drawing down the biggest credit (\$10.8 billion) ever advanced by the Fund.

The report also shows that Mexico continues to draw heavily on resources along with Argentina and Zambia. Much of the IMF's usable resources are being eaten up in lending programmes to the countries of the former Soviet bloc, with Ukraine among those which are prospective big borrowers.

Senior Fund officials conceded that achieving a doubling of resources during what is known as the 11th Quota Review will almost certainly be politically impossible, given the difficulty in getting the US Congress to agree any funding for international organisations.

The World Bank is already being forced to redraw plans for the International Develop-

ment Association, which makes loans to the poorest countries, because appropriations are still trapped in congressional committees.

Officials believe that although the need for greater resources can be shown, given the sharp rise in IMF members since the last quota increase, a doubling of resources is unlikely to win support of the richest industrial countries. IMF officials are still hoping for an increase of between 50 per cent and 75 per cent, although a formal request is unlikely to be made until the US elections are out of the way in November.

The annual report shows that the Fund's cash declined last year and will continue to fall in the current year, given the demand on its resources and the commitments already made.

It is particularly concerned, however, that the capital increase should cope with the needs of more than three dozen new members — many of them ex-communist countries — which have joined up since the last quota increase.

The quota increase will also provide the opportunity for the IMF to adjust national holdings of quotas to take account of shifts in global economic power.

Several large countries, most notably China, Russia and India, have joined the upper ranks as their national output has grown — as have some of the East Asian tigers.

As part of the quota increase they are expected to strengthen their shareholdings, but not enough to dislodge the big five at the IMF: the US, Japan, Germany, Britain and France.

A similar broadening in the power base of the world economy is expected to be approved at the annual meetings of the IMF/World Bank later this month when the General Arrangements to Borrow, a credit facility for use by the IMF in emergencies, is expanded to \$50 billion, bringing in a series of new countries.

Local Mini Cabs

FREE PHONE
0800-21-31-44
(We pay for your call)

CARS BIKES VANS

OR insure with **Eagle Star**

and get a free courtesy car after an accident.

Interested? Call **0800 333 800**

Courtesy car is provided when repairs are done by an Eagle Star authorised repairer. Service is available for all comprehensive customers, and for Third Party, Fire and Theft customers where damage is fire or theft related. Available in mainland Britain, Isle of Man and Channel Islands. Phone for a free motor insurance quote weekdays 8am-8pm, Saturday 9am-2pm. Not available in Northern Ireland.

Uganda stands to be first to gain from debt largesse

UGANDA is expected to be the first country to benefit from the World Bank/IMF debt reduction scheme if it is approved by finance ministers, writes Alex Brummer.

There is still some uncertainty, because of the opposition of countries including Germany, Italy and the Nordic states to gold sales designed to help finance the IMF contribution to the plan. IMF officials have raised the possibility privately that some of the organisation's reserves might be used to close the funding gap.

With the scheme in place, Uganda, which has been under IMF tutelage for three years, could start to benefit from the new debt reduction plan as soon as next year and could be free of its debt obligations by the end of the century.

Discussions on the Uganda debt scheme would begin this autumn, to be followed next year by a decision by the Paris Club of bilateral and commercial debtors to extend their debt reduction from the current 67 per cent to the 90 per cent level endorsed by the Lyon summit in July.

Next spring, the IMF, World Bank and other institutions would begin an assessment of how much debt reduction Uganda would qualify for.

Under current figures the IMF would cut its claims on Uganda by \$75 million (£50 million) by the end of 1999; the World Bank would have to provide a further \$155 million of debt forgiveness, and other lenders, including the European Investment Bank, would come in with \$18 million worth of reductions.

New digital Nokia. 100 hours of power!

NOKIA
NEW GSM MODEL 1610.

- ◆ Up to 100 hrs standby-time
- ◆ Up to 3.5 hrs talk-time
- ◆ 45 name/number memory stored on SIM
- ◆ Fast recharge-55 mins
- ◆ 5 selectable ring tones
- ◆ Weight 250g

VODAFONE PERSONALWORLD

Connection	£35.25 (£30 + VAT)
Monthly Rental	£17.03 (£15 + VAT)
Peak Rate Calls	35.25p per min (30p + VAT)
Off Peak	11.75p per min (10p + VAT)

2 MONTHS FREE LINE RENTAL (WORTH £35.25 INC. VAT)

LIFETIME PRODUCT WARRANTY

Cellphones direct

LIMITED OFFER
£4.99 INC. VAT

- FREE LINE RENTAL - for 2 months worth £35.26
- ONE SECOND BILLING - you only pay for the airtime you use
- MORE POWER - up to 100 hours standby-time, up to 3.5 hours talk-time
- BEST COVERAGE - with digital call clarity and security
- FREE ACCESSORIES - in-car adaptor and leather case together worth over £55

ORDER NOW WITH YOUR CREDIT CARD DETAILS FOR FREE DELIVERY IN 4 WORKING DAYS.

FREEPHONE 0500 000 888

CREDIT CARD ORDERING HOTLINE, WEEKDAYS 9AM TO 8PM, WEEKENDS 9AM TO 6PM

كازمان الترحيل

Racing

Trigger returns in record style

Plastic-patched Cup hero at last gets his due credit. Chris Hawkins reports

AS Frankie Dettori came into the winner's enclosure on Double Trigger after yesterday's East Coast Doncaster Cup he raised his hand and pointed repeatedly at his mount. Not that an adoring crowd needed telling. They knew who should get the credit, being fully aware that Double Trigger is an outstanding stayer with a heart to match his talent. To come back in such style, beating the track record by two seconds and Celeric by two lengths, after three months on the sidelines was a wonderful performance, particularly as the horse still has only half a hoof on his off-

ical specimen and may aim him for the Racing Post Trophy. Barty Hills was a little disappointed with The Fly, but had a glow of contentment about him reflecting the size of his wallet after his Branch had won the Kyoto Sceptre Stakes following his abortive and expensive trip last year unless a sponsor suddenly materialises. The French Gold Cup, the Prix du Cadran, is his sole remaining target this season, but the good news is that he should be around to do battle again next year. Celeric found himself stretched to the limit as Double Trigger quickened all the way up the Doncaster straight, but ran creditably to take second and his trainer, David Morley, has not ruled out the Melbourne Cup. With 8st 9lb Celeric is considered reasonably treated, but Morley will not make up his mind for a fortnight, saying that he will do what is best for the horse. Much will depend on whether it is decided to keep him in training next season. If he is going to be retired then Melbourne will be his final fling. With firm ground and a strong following wind, fast times were the order of the day and Al Azhar broke the juvenile mile record when winning the Ralph Raper Nursery. "Pat (Eddery) said he wouldn't have come off the bit if the ground had been a little easier," commented Ian Balding, who trains this fine phys-



Up for the cup... Double Trigger comes home in style ahead of Celeric

Bank on Bahhare for the bubbly

BAHHARE, already as famous as 8-1 for next year's 2,000 Guineas, faces his sternest test so far in today's Laurent-Perrier Champagne Stakes at Doncaster, writes Chris Hawkins. Goalkeeper to last season's high class miler Bahri has created a big impression in two cantering successes at Newmarket, breaking the juvenile seven furlong record. In doing so he has having previously defeated the subsequent group three winner Equal Rights over three lengths on his debut. Bahhare is a big, handsome colt and certainly looks the part. But the same can be said of Reveque, who beat In Command comfortably in the Accomb Stakes at York. Reliquary, trained by David Loder, comes from a stable of only two of two-year-old talent and must be respected, although his maiden win at Haydock tells us little. Bahhare (3-55) is the selection and if he wins in style he should be considered genuine Cheltenham hope. There was plenty to like about the way Daunt (2-00) ran at York last time. In a very competitive handicap he finished fifth to Celestial Choir and is worth another chance on that run. A Russian Music (3-40) should finally get his head in front in the BMW Conditions Stakes. He has run a succession of good races in defeat and has twice run up against the very smart Wizard King in his two latest attempts.

Doncaster runners and riders with form guide

Table listing Doncaster runners and riders with form guide. Includes columns for race name, runner name, jockey, and form numbers.

Goodwood with TV form

Table listing Goodwood runners and riders with TV form. Includes columns for race name, runner name, jockey, and TV form numbers.

BBC-2

Table listing BBC-2 runners and riders with form guide. Includes columns for race name, runner name, jockey, and form numbers.

BBC-2

Table listing BBC-2 runners and riders with form guide. Includes columns for race name, runner name, jockey, and form numbers.

Table listing Channel 4 runners and riders with form guide. Includes columns for race name, runner name, jockey, and form numbers.

Table listing Channel 4 runners and riders with form guide. Includes columns for race name, runner name, jockey, and form numbers.

Table listing BBC-2 runners and riders with form guide. Includes columns for race name, runner name, jockey, and form numbers.

Table listing BBC-2 runners and riders with form guide. Includes columns for race name, runner name, jockey, and form numbers.

Table listing Channel 4 runners and riders with form guide. Includes columns for race name, runner name, jockey, and form numbers.

Table listing Channel 4 runners and riders with form guide. Includes columns for race name, runner name, jockey, and form numbers.

Table listing BBC-2 runners and riders with form guide. Includes columns for race name, runner name, jockey, and form numbers.

Table listing BBC-2 runners and riders with form guide. Includes columns for race name, runner name, jockey, and form numbers.

Table listing Channel 4 runners and riders with form guide. Includes columns for race name, runner name, jockey, and form numbers.

Table listing Channel 4 runners and riders with form guide. Includes columns for race name, runner name, jockey, and form numbers.

Table listing BBC-2 runners and riders with form guide. Includes columns for race name, runner name, jockey, and form numbers.

Table listing BBC-2 runners and riders with form guide. Includes columns for race name, runner name, jockey, and form numbers.

Advertisement for RACELINE Pricket lame, featuring Simon Crisford and contact information.

Advertisement for Worcester National Hunt card, listing various races and participants.

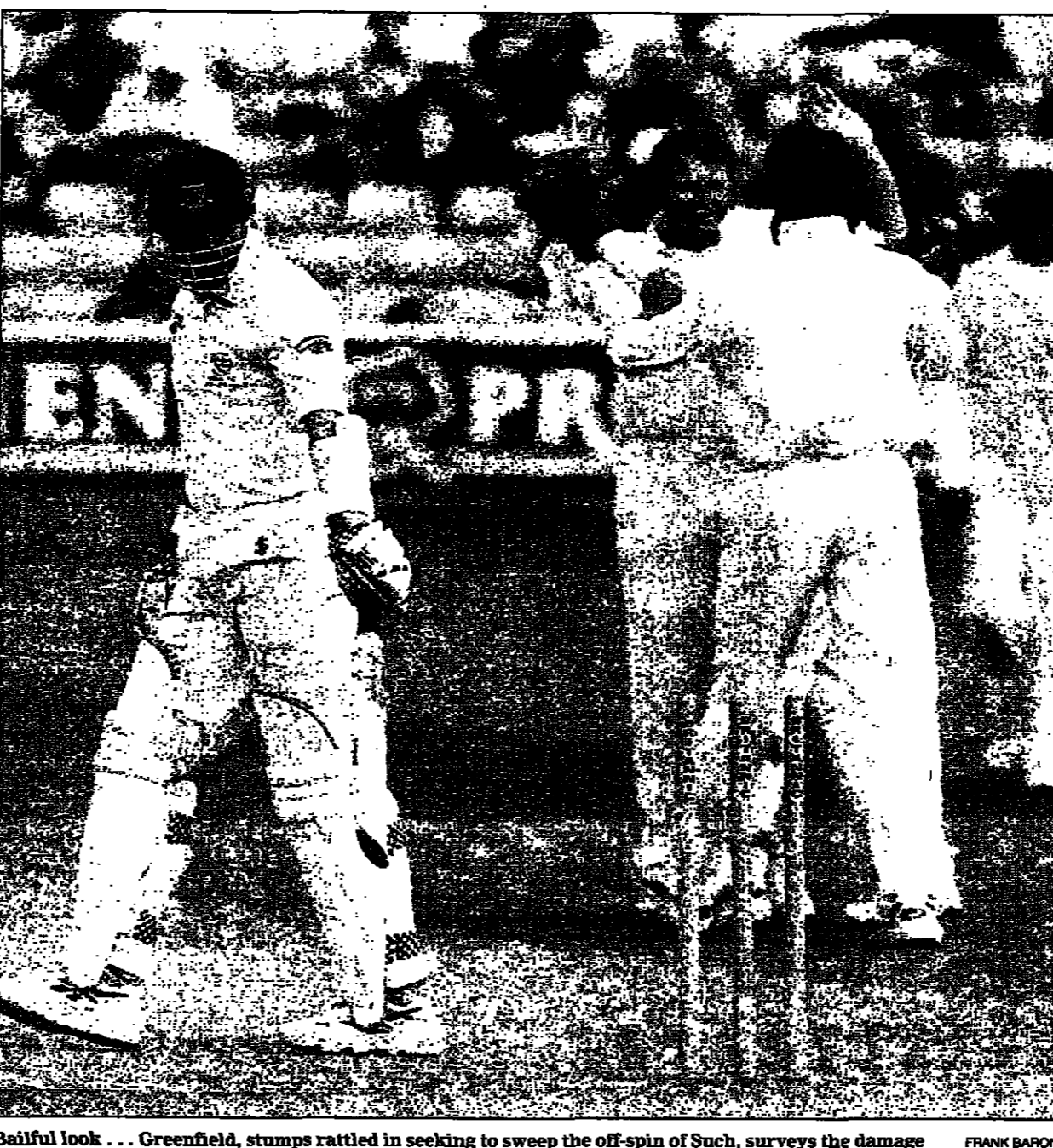
Advertisement for Worcester National Hunt card, listing various races and participants.

Advertisement for Worcester National Hunt card, listing various races and participants.

Large vertical advertisement on the left side of the page, featuring various products and services like 'unfashionable', 'seeks to', 'able capital', 'er rise in', 'sis lending', 'tal Nokia', 'of power', '4.9', 'LIMITED OFF', 'Cellphone'.

Cricket
County Championship: Essex v Sussex
Essex cop it off Salisbury

Paul Weaver at Chelmsford
IT HAS been a bad couple of weeks for Ian Salisbury. He bowled so poorly during the Oval Test that he received ironic cheers when he managed to send down a dot ball — and this, from a crowd which, according to many reports, he will be playing county cricket in front of next season.



Bailful look... Greenfield, stumps rattled in seeking to sweep the off-spin of Such, surveys the damage FRANK BARON

Durham v Leicestershire
Durham rock bottom as Simmons tops up

David Hopps at Chester-le-Street
DURHAM have endured many humiliations in their five years as a first-class county but few will have cast their shadow so widely. Any pretence harboured by Leicestershire's championship rivals that the leaders might stumble when least expected was soon abandoned as Durham could summon up only another flaccid performance.

Kent inflict Long suffering on young Hants

KENT kept up their pursuit of the championship leaders yesterday, punishing Hampshire for their use of child labour. Nigel Long struck 105 net as they made 376 for four at Canterbury.

Derbyshire v Warwickshire
Kismet brings down Cork

DOMINIC CORK has almost certainly bowled his last ball this season just when Derbyshire need one final effort. The England bowler was hit on the left shoulder by Dougie Brown early in his innings of 39 at the Racecourse Ground yesterday and, after struggling in the field later on, was taken to the Royal Infirmary for an X-ray, which revealed a hairline crack to the top of his humerus.

Scoreboard

Table with 2 columns: County, Score. Includes entries for Essex v Sussex, Kent v Hampshire, and others.

GLAMORGAN v SURREY

Table with 2 columns: Player, Runs. Lists players like P R Potter, M Pugh, and their scores.

DERBYSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

Table with 2 columns: Player, Runs. Lists players like M Pugh, M Pugh, and their scores.

ESSEX v SUSSEX

Table with 2 columns: Player, Runs. Lists players like N J Letchford, N J Letchford, and their scores.

YORKSHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Table with 2 columns: Player, Runs. Lists players like P R Potter, P R Potter, and their scores.

WILTSHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Table with 2 columns: Player, Runs. Lists players like M Pugh, M Pugh, and their scores.

Cricket

News and Scores
0891 22 88 +
Counties update
Derbyshire 31 Middlesex 40
Essex 32 Northants 41
Durham 33 Nottingham 42
Glamorgan 34 Somerset 43
Gloucestershire 35 Surrey 44
Hampshire 36 Sussex 45
Kent 37 Warwickshire 46
Leicestershire 38 Worcestershire 47
Lancashire 39 Yorkshire 48

WORCS v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Table with 2 columns: Player, Runs. Lists players like M Pugh, M Pugh, and their scores.

MIDDLESEX v SOMERSET

Table with 2 columns: Player, Runs. Lists players like M Pugh, M Pugh, and their scores.

WILTSHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Table with 2 columns: Player, Runs. Lists players like M Pugh, M Pugh, and their scores.

WILTSHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Table with 2 columns: Player, Runs. Lists players like M Pugh, M Pugh, and their scores.

WILTSHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Table with 2 columns: Player, Runs. Lists players like M Pugh, M Pugh, and their scores.

Golf
Montgomery a top draw as Faldo falters

COLIN MONTGOMERIE stood on the 2nd tee here yesterday and hit into the ideal position. "Good heavens," said his playing partner and Ryder Cup teammate Per-Ulrik Johansson. "What was that, a draw? That must have been an accident." Montgomery smiled. "I can do that on purpose these days," said the man whose high fade has been his signature shot all these years.

Sport in brief

Table Tennis
Grove, one of Britain's most successful clubs, have been hit by a financial crisis and will draw both their teams from the European Cup.
Equestrianism
The Horse of the Year Show at Wembley from October 22 to November 6, seeking to broaden its appeal after a decline in popularity, will embrace several new features, notably displays of precision dressage to music by the French Cadre Noir Riding School, who are making their first appearance in Britain for 15 years.

Advertisement for The Observer featuring a large image of a horse and rider. Text includes: "It's not just the winning, it's the analysis that counts. The Sunday sports section with the most intelligent coverage. The Observer."

SportsGuardian

BJORNEBYE SNATCHES WINNER WITH VALUABLE AWAY GOAL

European Cup Winners' Cup, first round, first leg: MyPa-47 0, Liverpool 1

Reds struggle into the black

In Ross in Anjalankoski

PERHAPS it is true that there are no easy games left in the European arena. English clubs are making hard work of seemingly straightforward tasks at present but, as any self-respecting manager will say, a win is a win.

Having succeeded in scoring in a European tie for the first time in four games, Liverpool will presumably move into the next round at a center, which will probably erase the memory of this less than distinguished performance.

The bunting had been put up early in this small town in the forestlands of southern Finland. Last season PSV Eindhoven had visited in the Uefa Cup but this was the big time. Liverpool had arrived and by introspective Finnish standards the carnival was in full flow. It was a shame it was to prove such a disappointing experience.

The Saviniemi Stadium, with its one rickety stand and its makeshift terracing, was, of course, full. Liverpool's standing in Scandinavia is such that all 5,000 tickets had been disposed of within 19 minutes of the box office rolling up its shutters.

Redknapp, fit for the first time since he limped away from the European Championship finals, went through a vigorous pre-match routine but like successive generations of Liverpool footballers, he is learning to accept that at Anfield possession is nine-tenths of the law in more ways than one. Unimpressive — even dour — though they had been against Southampton last weekend, Liverpool were unchanged.



Fowler howler... the young Liverpool striker applies his instep to Mika Viljanen's ankle in Anjalankoski

PHOTOGRAPH: BEN RADFORD

flexible one which dramatically reduced the home team's ability to draw anything even resembling a surprise from within a very limited box of tricks.

Had Liverpool struck early, the part-timers of MyPa might have folded in the traditional and prescribed manner. Despite offering a nice line in counter-attacks, they

were a stack of unstable building blocks waiting to tumble. Chances came but, against a defence boasting the butcher, baker and candle-

stick-maker, that was always likely to happen. Liverpool worked the ball out of defence and forward reasonably well but it was an inability to punch holes in MyPa's back line that so startled those shivering beneath the fir trees.

After Fowler and McAteer had stabbed shots wide Liverpool's best openings began to fall to those least equipped to take advantage of them.

The best chance of what was a tawdry opening half came late on but, even though the goalkeeper Jakonen spilled a Bjornebye corner, Babb was unable to turn the ball in.

The harder Liverpool tried to fashion a breakthrough, the less likely one seemed, which made the events of the 61st minute all the more surprising.

Thirty seconds after Collymore had mystifyingly side-

stepped wide from a matter of a few feet Liverpool scored. It was a fine goal, McAteer's first meaningful cross of the evening was only half-cleared and the ball fell to Bjornebye, who swept it in from 16 yards to make memorable his first European appearance at club level.

At last MyPa's resolve began to weaken. As Finnish bodies began to tire, Fowler's delicious job bounced on the cross-bar and Thomas's sweet drive struck the outside of a post.

But further goals would have served only to flatter Liverpool. They deserved to win but certainly not by a landslide.

The great irony in all this, in case Mr Thompson has forgotten, is that the Arsenal chairman Peter Hill-Wood had asked Leeds if he could invite Wilkinson to clean up his club's tarnished name after Graham's stewardship.

Graham, you will recall, was sacked by Arsenal in February last year after he had been found guilty of taking il-

Job creation scheme puts George in work



Paul Weaver

IT WAS always difficult to imagine George Graham holding out a tin cup beneath Waterloo Bridge, his tattered P45 fluttering under a winter welkin and his face glowing like a Rembrandt after a fistful of Tennent's Extra.

Graham, now one of the world's highest paid mannequins at £350,000 a year, was clearly going to get another job, even though Emporio Armani seemed more likely than Leeds United to come up with a contract.

Graham might be called the beneficiary of a job creation scheme. Howard Wilkinson was sacked, it seems, by a minority of bigots on the Elland Road terraces. Wilko and out.

So, if the Leeds chairman Bill Fotherby is always prepared to give them their head, it can be hoped only that he will give them his when they call for it.

It feels good having all this power. Us, Joe Public. It is comforting to know that the next time you hear Pavarotti hit a dull note in concert at Hyde Park you have only to give him a few verbals and they will pack him off to cook spaghetti in Italy where he belongs. In no time at all, with this wonderful new franchise-

ment, we will have free beer, capital punishment, Gazza for PM and Botham for King.

On the other hand, Graham's appointment might have a little to do with the fact that he lives in the same fashionable apartment block in Hampstead, north London, as Richard Thompson, the former owner of Queens Park Rangers, who is now a director of Caspian, the group which took control of the Yorkshire club this summer. The former chairman Leslie Silver would have stood by one of football's most respected managers.

Graham also has history against him. Few managers have enjoyed success at more than one club. Chapman, of course, Brian Clough, Kenny Dalglish, Bobby Robson, Alex Ferguson.

Graham looks unlikely to make that list. Self-belief is one thing, egotism another.

legal payments, totalling £425,500, from the agent Rune Hauge in connection with the transfers from Scandinavia to Highbury of Pal Lydersen and John Jensen.

Highbury and Elland Road now make an interesting comparison. At Arsenal, waiting for Arsene Wenger feels about as profitable as waiting for Godot. The bust of Herbert Chapman is still there, proud and preening among the people. Somebody should throw a towel over his head to prevent him gazing down on this struggling, managerless club.

They might have been buying and ultimately unsuccessful under Graham but, at least they did not ship goals as easily as they did the other night against Borussia Mönchengladbach, a moderate side in this year's Bundesliga.

At Leeds, meanwhile, where Wilkinson won the championship only four years ago, having won the old Second Division title in 1990, and followed that with two fifth positions in 1994 and 1995, there is the atmosphere of a proper football club, a thriving youth policy, an impressive stadium, new training facilities, a hotel for young players.

Now they have Graham, once known as Stroller and then Peacock, the man who should have been held to be aware of Norwegians bearing gifts.

BUT this is not a moralistic, Calvinistic attack on a manager who took a bung. There are other reasons why he is lucky to get the job at Leeds, not least his lack of humility after bringing shame to a once-proud club and even writing a book about the episode.

Then there is his recent record as a manager. At Highbury he allowed an ageing team to stagnate for over two years. It is a manager's job to compete in the transfer market and towards the end of his career with Arsenal Graham lost that skill, even though he was one of the few people with the money to pursue the best players.

"It is easy to spend money on the wrong players," he always said in his own defence, but it was his job to identify the right players and sign them, and he failed.

Graham also has history against him. Few managers have enjoyed success at more than one club. Chapman, of course, Brian Clough, Kenny Dalglish, Bobby Robson, Alex Ferguson.

Graham looks unlikely to make that list. Self-belief is one thing, egotism another.

OR talk to insurance people who treat you like an individual. Interested?
Call 0800 333 800
for a motor or home quote.

EAGLE STAR

Phone for a free quote weekdays 8am - 8pm, Saturday 9am - 2pm. Motor insurance not available in Northern Ireland.

Oliver Stone creates because he has to — to conquer his own demons, survive his madness, grapple with his outrageous nature. Michael Douglas
Friday Review, page 6

Guardian Crossword No 20,757
Set by Custos

Across
1 Restrain a newlywed, left inside (6)
5 US politician seen in protest march about renegade (8)
9 Inhabitant of eastern Mediterranean, a debtor who absconds? (8)
10 Dish a rascal put before one (6)
11 Habitat that is seen in numbers in South-East England (4-8)
13 This girl has knocked me over, Mother (4)
14 Fine fabric, also used in endless drunken revels (8)
17 Society striking and officiating (8)
18 Repeated cheers voiced on departure (2-2)
20 An underground system, and not the novel course (8,4)
23 A time within a period of self-denial? That's not apparent (6)

Down
2 Artist enervates male ostrich (4)
3 Thin vibrating disc produces, oddly, a dim graph (9)
4 Lay to rest some eminent ombudsman (5)
5 Head of organisation, absolute or indefinite (9-7)
6 Wise man coming round craftily uses dwelling and adjoining lands (8)
7 Trade calling for dexterity (5)
8 Rise in value you've to estimate (10)
12 To improve, I speak after a smashing meal (10)
15 Insect, horribly wet 'un, deadily (3-6)

16 A man's title encompasses me, an actor without words (8)
19 One c-copper is included in half-pay, a temporary setback (8)
21 River, one that runs into part of camp (5)
22 For the coarser part, censorship is about right (4)

Solution tomorrow

Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0181 226 226. Calls cost 35p per min, cheap rate, 49p per min at all other times. Service supplied by ATS

CHAMBER CARTOON
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

مركز ابحاث

Thursday September 18 1998
the we
Barton runs
Mery as White M
Bus pens
Prince swip
inside